

THE North-China Herald

AND

SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE

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LATEST MAIL, DATEN

England, ...	Nov. 30	Hankow, ...	Jan. 7
San Francisco, ...	" 24	Tokohama, ...	Dec. 26
Hongkong, ...	Jan. 3	Nagasaki, ...	Jan. 7
Tientsin, ...	Dec. 26	Yochow, ...	" 6

Shanghai mail advices of 1st December were received in London on the 7th inst.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer	Thermometer	Hygrometer	WIND.	Rain-fall in inches
	30 A.M.	Atmosphere.	Max. Min. Dry bulb. Wet bulb. Force.	Direction.	Previous 24 hours.
Jan 6	30.50	24.0 34.0	22.0 24.0	3 S.W.	..
7	30.57	24.0 30.0	22.0 28.0	3 S.W.	..
8	30.52	35.0 35.0	33.0 35.0	3 N.W.	..
9	30.45	33.0 37.0	30.0 33.0	3 N.W.	..
10	30.44	33.0 37.0	29.0 32.0	3 N.W.	..
11	30.34	37.0 37.0	33.0 35.0	2 W.	..
12	30.13	38.5 41.5	35.0 38.5	2 W.	..

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The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, FRIDAY, 11 JAN., 1889.

IN our review at this time last year of the foreign trade of Shanghai in 1887, we were able to say that it had been a year of steady if small profits, and that the community generally was undoubtedly richer on the 6th of January 1888 than it was on the 6th of January 1887. In the old days, when Shanghai had not had the spirit of speculation exorcised by misfortune, a good year like 1887 would certainly have been followed by a bad one; and if the second year had been marked by the floods and droughts from which China has suffered in the year that has just closed, and from which this unfortunate empire is still suffering, it would have been a very bad one. Happily we are now a more prudent and steady-going community than we used to be; we have taken more to heart the maxim that *les affaires* should be *l'argent des autres*, we do much more on commission and much less on our own account, and we are therefore able to class 1888 as again, on the whole, a good year. In certain branches of trade losses have undoubtedly been made, in some heavy losses, but the balance is on the right side; and the staple imports and exports have given favourable results to those who have dealt in them with ordinary prudence. We are sorry to know that in too many cases our Chinese friends cannot tell the same story, and that the annual settling-day is looked forward to by too many of them with just apprehension. But shrewd traders as they are, foresight is not one of their most widely distributed qualities; and deprived as they generally are of any proper system of advices from the consuming districts, and absolutely deprived of statistics of any kind, their operations are always more or less blind, and with such a condition of commerce, disaster is often inevitable.

To importers of piece-goods the results of 1888 have been very various. The

staple articles have on the whole done well throughout the year, and the rise in silver in the last quarter of the year has helped them considerably, for a large quantity of goods was bought in Manchester on the basis of 4s. 2d. The deliveries of the leading cottons have been good, as Messrs. L. Moore & Co.'s table which we published last week shews. Heavy losses have been made, and are still to be made in American sheetings, which have been over-imported, and have suffered severely from the competition of English sheetings. Some woollen goods have done well, others, and nearly all fancy goods, have done very badly; and for this over-importation is chiefly to blame. The table of stocks at date, published last week, explains this. There are in godowns and at wharves in Shanghai stocks of piece-goods sufficient in some cases for nearly a year's consumption, and in some cases for even more. For this the Chinese are chiefly to blame and on them a good deal of the loss falls; but foreigners have to suffer too. In metals 1888 was fairly satisfactory, except to speculators on this market: kerosene oil, which is more and more becoming an important item in our trade, turned out very well in the latter part of the year, owing to the curtailment of shipments; and this has enabled the Russian oil to get a footing, which it would not have done, if American oil had been in fuller supply. For the German importers, whose operations continually extend, as they deserve to do, for there is no section of the community that pushes its trade with more intelligence, enterprise and energy, 1888 has been a good year, and though the competition is severe, and attended at times by over-import, profits have been fairly kept up. What German importers have most to fight against is a tendency on the part of some manufacturers to reduce the quality of their products.

When we turn to the export trade of the year we find that it has been on the whole satisfactory. Tea has done very well, not, however, we fear from any change in public taste at home or marked improvement in the leaf in China, but simply from the curtailment of supplies. All fine and medium black teas have given exceedingly good returns, but this has not been the case with common teas, many of which have given a heavy percentage of loss; few of them cost under 5d. a lb., and some have sold down to 3½d. to 4d. The

late recovery at home, however, has mended this. Greens have been also in short supply, and have accordingly done fairly well both to England and America; and the trade in northern teas generally seems to have got on a sound basis, now that the teamen begin to understand that the profits to foreigners and themselves alike depend on the amount prepared for market. Shippers of silk met with disappointment at the beginning of the season but prices were so low that the losses could not be serious, and the boom at the end of the year at home has helped it wonderfully, and been a delightful incident to those who did not sell out their stocks at the bottom of the market and replace them at the top. The future of this market depends on the strength of the syndicate which is controlling the noble article at home, and of that there are few doubts. Meanwhile there are only some 3,000 bales in stock here, and the rise of Tls. 40 from the lowest point is not expected to bring down more than 6,000 bales from the country, making the total supply of white silks for the season some 38,000 bales against 45,600 last year. The general rise in prices at home has benefited sundry exports of all kinds.

While it is true that only a small section of the community is interested in opium, it is still a very important factor in our trade. In consequence of short crops both in China and India, the year 1888 was an uncommonly good one for importers, prices having advanced since June last about Tls. 100 per picul for Malwa and Tls. 50 for Bengal opium. The deliveries for the past three years are as follows, in chests:—

	Malwa	Bengal	Total
1886	27,063	11,138	38,201
1887	26,366	9,973	36,339
1888	22,640	12,964	35,604

From which it will be seen that though the China crop was a bad one last year, the consumption of Indian opium is steadily declining, and there is reason to fear that it will receive a startling blow, as soon as China has again a large and cheap crop. Bengal from its greater cheapness, has lately supplanted Malwa opium.

To owners of land and houses 1888 was a very satisfactory year, for the population of the settlements continues to increase. The recent floating of a large land company, which has bought its estates at very high prices, must be re-assuring to all land-owners, if they required any re-assuring. Another good test of the prosperity of the Shanghai is found in the statements of our store-keepers, that they have all had generally a good year. If we take the local share list as a guide, we find the same thing, not very marked. Of the fifteen stocks that are purely local, nine have advanced during the year, one is unchanged and five have receded; the last being in most cases due to special circumstances. In the above brief summary we believe that we have given a cold and accurate statement of facts without exaggeration

or extenuation: the natural calamities round us may bring on a brief period of depression, but but we have faith in the progressive prosperity of Shanghai.

THE proclamation of H.E. Tseng Kuochuan, Viceroy of the provinces of Kiangsu, Kiangsi and Anhui, which is given in the minutes of the Municipal Council in this number of the *Herald*, describes in vivid and natural colours the distress in several districts under his rule. No less striking and distressing is the condition of the people in large parts of Shantung, as it is presented to us in the letter signed by eight missionaries of that province. From Newchwang, also, private letters say that the misery of the people is very great, and urgent entreaties for further help are made. The proclamation of the Viceroy of the Liang-kiang is remarkable as an appeal to foreigners residing in his provinces, and to natives under his rule, to help his people and save them from starvation and death. Things must be very bad indeed when a great Chinese noble, one of the foremost and most influential men in the Empire thus asks the assistance of the people and of strangers. The proclamation is very different from those documents in which Emperors accuse themselves of having incurred the wrath of Heaven on themselves, and consequently on their people, or the Memorials to the Throne in which officials charge themselves with negligence. It reads genuine. Not less genuine is the appeal which the Shantung Missionaries make for the famine stricken people in their districts; while letters previously received from Newchwang have shewn how real and widespread is the distress near that port. These accounts, and others which we have given before, speak for themselves, and there is no necessity for our dilating upon them.

We have no doubt that a generous response will be made here and elsewhere to these cries for help. Shanghai, by its foreigners and natives, has already given freely and assistance has come from places near at hand. But more money is wanted than can be contributed here or in the North of China, and therefore an appeal has been made to Europe and America. Telegrams were dispatched a few days since to London, asking that a subscription list should be opened at the Mansion House, and that Paris, Berlin and New York should be communicated with for the same object. We may anticipate that the subscriptions from these and other places will be on a generous scale, that they will come to hand quickly, and so relieve much want. The money obtained by these appeals is primarily for the relief of the Liang-Kiang provinces, but the Committee are not limited in the exercise of their discretion as to assisting other districts also. But there are places nearer at hand than Europe and America which, as we hinted some weeks ago, have a duty to perform on this

matter which hitherto they have, as far as we know, neglected. The ports in the South, Hongkong and the Straits Settlements should contribute among them a substantial sum. And we do not doubt, that if subscriptions have not already been begun in these places, some influential people in them will undertake to collect and forward money, as soon as the accounts from the districts where so many hundreds of thousands are suffering severely and are in danger of death by starvation are received by them.

Summary of News.

The French mail of 30th November arrived here on the 6th inst., by the M.M. Co.'s str. *Melbourne*.

A mail leaves to-morrow morning for Europe, by the P. & O. Co.'s str. *Sutlej*.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

[BY EASTERN EXTENSION A. AND C. TEL. CO.]
(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

GENERAL GRENFELL.

London, 4th January.

General Grenfell is returning to Cairo.

THE DEFENCE OF THE COMMERCIAL PORTS.

Lord Salisbury in receiving a deputation which urged that the commercial ports should have proper defences, said that the necessary provision would be made in the ensuing estimates.

GERMAN REPULSE AT SAMOA.

London, 8th January.

The German sailors who were landed in Samoa were driven back to the boats and a lieutenant and fifteen men were killed and thirty-six wounded.

SUAKIM.

Two British officers have been left at Suakim.

PARLIAMENT.

London, Dec. 26th.

Parliament was prorogued on the 24th instant.

ITALY.

Rome, Dec. 26th.

The Chamber has voted a special military credit.

THE BRITISH VICTORY AT SUAKIM.

Suakim, 20th Dec.

General Grenfell with a combined force of four thousand men this morning attacked and stormed the rebel redoubts. Our loss was slight, but the enemy lost over one thousand men. The victory was complete in a half-hour after the attack and a Cavalry charge completed the route of the enemy, who retreated to Hashen Tamai. General Grenfell now occupies the enemy's works.

THE SERBIAN ELECTION.

Belgrade, 19th Dec.

The elections for the Serbian Grand Skuptschina have resulted in an overwhelming majority for the Radical, or Anti-Austrian, part.—*Straits Times*.

It is seldom that an expression of public opinion regarding an official meets with such general sympathy as the petition to President Harrison, praying that General Kennedy, the courteous and popular Consul-General for the United States should be retained at this port. The

document, which very modestly sets forth the reasons which weigh with his fellow nationals in asking that the usual and often mischievous practice of changing the resident officials of the U.S. Government with each new administration, has been readily signed by all the prominent American residents here, and we would remind our American readers that the time for attaching their signatures is drawing to a close. It is to be hoped that the movement will have the desired effect, as General Kennedy's departure from Shanghai would not only be a loss to his nationals, but to the whole foreign community of whom he has earned the confidence and esteem.

We are pleased to be informed by Mr. Max Goebel, Consul-General for Belgium, that he has received from his government the Order of Leopold for Mr. Joseph Haas, Consul for Austro-Hungary, who is now on leave.

From Peking we hear that there is a movement there in favour of building a club house after the manner of the Ports, and preparing for the great things that are expected from the advent of the railway.

Saturday last was the coldest day we have had in Shanghai for at least seven years, the mean temperature, day and night, being 24°. The next coldest day recorded in the last seven years was the 31st of December, 1887, when the mean temperature was 26°.

The snow at Ningpo on Monday was six inches deep.

Mr. James Tait, formerly of the well-known house of Tait and Co., Amoy, died at Kolansoo House, Portobello, N.B., on the 23rd of November last.

A very gallant deed was done on, or rather off, H.M.S. *Cockchafer* on Saturday night last. Mr. Hodges, Sub-Lieutenant, was coming alongside in a sampan when his foot slipped, and he fell into the river and went under the sampan. A marine, though he was in his heavy great coat, pluckily jumped into the river and succeeded, after an interval, in pushing Mr. Hodges from under the sampan, when they both came up. By this time they had drifted some distance, and the night was so dark that the boats which had been sent from the gunboat at once, returned declaring that it was impossible to find them. We should hope that the marine will get the Royal Humane Society's medal for this very gallant act performed, as it was, on the coldest night of the year, and with the dread of the river that has naturally settled on the seamen generally since the best swimmer on the *Rambler* was drowned. The same night Captain Maxwell in coming alongside slipped off the sampan, but fortunately caught the companion and only got wet up to his waist. It is impossible to take too much care in stepping off the deck of a sampan on a frosty or wet night.

A sad event occurred on board the U.S.S. *Omaha* in this river on Tuesday night. Chief Engineer Edwin Wells, who had been in perfectly good health, was a man very well situated, and much liked by his brother officers, a bachelor and, as far as known, with no troubles of any kind, though he had appeared at times a little melancholy during the last few days, went into Commander Reissinger's cabin and borrowed his revolver, no one being there at the time. After looking about him on deck, he went out on the upper grating on the starboard gangway, and shot himself through the head, dying instantly. Mr. Wells was a native of Pennsylvania and entered the U.S. navy in 1861, serving during the war. He was beloved by his messmates, and his death is a great shock to his brother officers. An inquest was held on board the *Omaha*, according to regulations, on Wednesday afternoon, and found that the deceased committed suicide during temporary insanity. No cause was assigned for the insanity by the Board of Inquest, but it was found when the post-mortem was made that the brain of the deceased was adhering to the

skull. As far as is known there is no reason whatever why Mr. Wells should have made away with himself, and he had made numerous friends in this community. We hear that Mr. Wells made his first cruise at sea with Admiral Chandler, and they had always been very friendly, and the occurrence is naturally a severe blow to the Admiral. The funeral took place yesterday afternoon with naval honours. The procession formed on the French Bund at the foot of the Rue du Consulat and started in the following orders:—Music, consisting of side drums and bugles; 33 marines with arms reversed forming the firing party; the Rev. Mr. Hodges as Chaplain; the hearse with the pall bearers, Lieut-Commander Reissinger (*Omaha*), Lieut-Commander Hutchins (*Marion*), Paymasters McDaniels and Macmahon, Chief Engineer Butterworth, and Surgeon Brush; the body bearers, eight men belonging to the engine department of the *Omaha*; the escort consisting of 72 blue-jackets; some residents on foot; carriages with Admiral Chandler, General Kennedy, American and British naval officers. The French Police sent out a patrol which kept the road clear and some policemen were sent from the English Settlement for the same purpose. A number of residents including ladies were present at the cemetery. Lieutenant J. M. Miller was in charge of the cortege with Lieutenant Turner in charge of the firing party. Lieutenant Bowyer was with the *Omaha*'s men, and Ensign Miller with those from the *Marion*. The coffin had white metal mounts and furniture and the plate bore this inscription:—Edwin Wells, Chief Engineer, U.S.N., aged 51 years. After the service was completed, the marines fired three volleys, and then the men returned to their ships.

The funeral of Mr. J. J. Poynter, a Tide-surveyor in the Customs Service, took place on Tuesday. The deceased joined the Customs in 1863, so that he had been some 26 years in the Service. He was stationed at Chinkiang, and on the 30th ult. he came to Shanghai for medical treatment, but died on Sunday. He is spoken of as having been a very liberal man, and was highly respected.

A regular communication of the District Grand Lodge of Northern China, E.C. was held in the Masonic Hall on Monday the 7th January, 1889, when the Right Worshipful District Grand Master, Bro. Miller, appointed and invested his office bearers for the year, as follows:—

Wor. Bro. C. J. Holliday	D.S.G.W.
" F. M. Gratton	D.J.G.W.
" K. Moore	D.G. Treasurer.
" G. R. Wingrove	D.G. Registrar.
" T. F. Hough	P.D.B. of G.P.
" G. M. Hart	D.G. Secretary.
" J. West	D.S.G.D.
" R. M. Brown	D.J.G.D.
" S. Moutrie	D.G. Sup. of Works.
Bro. J. Fryer	D.G. Dir. of Cer.
" R. Pestonjee	D.G.A.D. of Cer.
" J. H. Osborne	D.G. Sd.-Bearer.
" W. E. Southcott	D.G. Stand.-Bearer.
" D. E. Sassoon	D.G. do.
" G. Lanning	D.G. Organist.
" S. R. Gale	D.A.G. Secretary.
" J. W. Gande	D.G. Pursuivant.
" E. Belbin	D.A.G. do.
" E. Bois	D.G. Steward.
" W. W. Clifford	do.
" F. P. Catterall	do.
" B. P. Lalcaca	do.
" E. P. Wickham	do.
" C. Merritt	D.G. Tyler.

The following is the result of the election to the French Municipal Council held on Wednesday:—

Number of voters	83
G. MacBain	83
J. C. Bois	82
J. Chapsal	82
J. Fournel	82
P. Brunat	81
J. Oriou	1
J. Arranger	1

We hear from Canton of a disagreeable accident that occurred there at Christmas time. During a German theatrical performance there was some practice with what were apparently heavy weights, and at the conclusion the performer swung one of them round and hurled it the audience. It should have opened and covered the spectators with flowers, but by some accident it remained closed and struck Mr. Alabaster on the mouth, breaking several of his teeth, and causing a serious wound in the face, which had to be sewn up. Glancing off Mr. Alabaster, it struck the lady next him rather severely on the shoulder, and then hit the American Consul. Mr. Alabaster's mouth was so much injured that he was unable to eat any solids for several days.

Two hundred and sixty pairs of boots have, according to the *Shih Pao*, been made "for the use of the Emperor's marriage," packed in boxes and sent to the managing department of the Imperial household.

Mr. Muirhead has much pleasure in acknowledging the following contribution for Shantung Relief Work:—

"Zoroastrian"	Tls. 50
Missionaries in Chinkiang	\$150
Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Cardwell	15
Mr. Carnie—Chinkiang	5
For "Mary"	Tls. 10
Scholars at St. John's College	2

The sum of Tael 300 was sent to Dr. Nevius on Monday.

It may be well to state that the sums remitted on account of Relief Work are as follows:—

Honan—China Inland Missionaries	\$2,450
" Roman Catholic	500
Kiangsu—	250
Newchwang—H.M. Consul	600
Rev. Dr. Nevius, Chefoo	1,500
" P. Bergen, Tsinan	700
" S. B. Drake, Chow-tsun	200

A further sum of Tls. 100 has been sent to Newchwang, where the sufferings of the people are said to be specially severe. But the accounts from all quarters are of like character, and it seems they will be worse and worse as the months go on. It is sometimes a difficulty to determine which place is most in need, so as to use our limited funds in the most availing manner.

Mr. Carles desires us to acknowledge a donation of Tael 50 from "Zoroastrian" to the Newchwang Floods Relief Fund.

At a meeting of the North China Famine Relief Committee held on the 9th instant it was unanimously resolved to accept the services of General W. Mesny in connection with the distribution of the funds subscribed. This gentleman has an excellent reputation, and his high official rank, Chinese dress, and knowledge of the language, will render him thoroughly acceptable to the Chinese officials and people with whom he will be brought in contact. He will shortly proceed to the scene of the famine to make enquiries and report to the Committee upon the best measures to be taken for the relief of the sufferers. He will be provided with letters from the Shanghai Taotai to the officials of the various districts to be visited by him.

The frost has done great damage to the water-pipes in consumers' houses, and we believe that nearly four hundred bursts have occurred in and outside the Settlements. It is noteworthy that most of these breakages took place in the houses of foreigners, the Chinese consumers apparently having exercised more precaution in the way of turning the water off at night.

The annual Hongkong shooting party returned to Shanghai from the River on Tuesday, and reports game abundant. Their bag was thirteen hundred head.

Many ladies and gentlemen were present at the meeting held on Monday night at the Philharmonic Hall. It was of special interest from the valuable statistics adduced by Dr. Gulick of Missionary Work in China during the past year, which will in due time be published in the *Chinese Recorder*.

The *Messenger*, of which a copy of this month's issue, being the first number of the second volume, has been sent us, is a quarto magazine of 16 pages, and is described as "a Record of Christian thought and work in China for missionary circles and general readers." It is printed and published by the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge among the Chinese, the annual subscription being \$2. It is a little wider in its scope and than the *Chinese Recorder*, including, as it does, Reuter's telegrams and a column of general news; but the articles are shorter and more varied. It is melancholy to read in the opening article that at the recent meeting of the Shanghai Missionary Association, "reference was first made to the low state in which the native Christians are, in Spirituality, in Zeal, in Knowledge of Spiritual things, in Holiness, and in Separation from their old Superstitions. One cause of this low condition in Shanghai is the exceeding wickedness with which they are surrounded which even he" (the speaker) "thought has its effect upon ourselves." In a paper on The Famous Men of China, Pastor Faber gives sketches of Confucius, Lao-tse, and the Eight Immortals. We can find no reference in the China Inland Mission notes to the famine in Anhui and Kiangsu which Mr. Drummond's committee is preparing to combat; but we are sorry to see the following paragraph in a letter from Szechuen:—"We are not free from opposition especially from the Roman Catholics who try to stop our meetings and prevent the people from attending; however God is stronger than the enemy"! The programme is given of the subjects proposed for the missionary conference of 1890 which is to occupy ten days, and a very full one it is. There is a curious note on Faith Cure and Divine Healing, in which the writer shews a tentative belief that physical sickness may be expected to yield to prayer and anointing with oil. Even those who do not agree with all that it contains will find this a thoughtful and readable journal.

We have received two numbers of *L'Echo de la Semaine*, a weekly paper published in Paris. It is a 16-page quarto paper, well printed and illustrated, and the subscription for postal union countries, which includes Shanghai, is only 7½ francs a year, while to all annual subscribers a 3½ franc novel is presented as a premium, which may be chosen from a long list, and which reduces the actual cost of the paper to 4 francs a year, postage included. It is edited by M. Victor Tissot; the articles are taken to a large extent from other papers, and the result is that the table of contents for one number contains among other names of authors those of Rochefort, Scholl, de Maupassant, Gondinet, Victor Hugo, A. Daudet and Claretie. A subscription for a year to this paper, with its premium, would be an excellent investment of \$2.

The *Sin Nanzing* reports a heavy fall of snow at Chefoo while she was in port. The *Sin Nanzing* left on the 7th.

The *Cito* collided with the *Feilung* which was lying alongside the C.M.L. Wharf, on Wednesday. The damage done to both vessels is not extensive.

The *Chingwo* encountered bad weather on her voyage from Kobe to Yokohama where she arrived on Sunday. During the gale, a heavy piece of machinery broke adrift in the tween decks and smashed two plates in her side. The necessary repairs will not detain the vessel at Yokohama.

The following is another version, from a southern exchange of the recent telegram as to Stanley and Emin Pasha. It is much more probable than the former statement that the Mahdi's troops urged Stanley to return:—

London, 24th Dec.

Mr. Stanley reached Wadelai in January last. A fortnight later Emin Bey received

a letter from the Mahdi demanding the surrender of the province of Wadelai, which was refused.

In April the Mahdi's troops were drawing near, and Stanley urged Emin in vain to return to the Congo with him.

We gather from this that on Emin's refusal to retire to the Congo, Stanley determined to stay with him, and they were both delivered up to the Mahdists.

The following appointments appear in the *Gazette* of the 30th November:—Mr. Thomas Watters, Consul at Newchwang; Mr. Alexander Frater, Consul at Ningpo; Mr. Edward Lavington Oxenham, Consul at Kiungchow; Mr. Benjamin Charles George Scott, Consul at Chefoo; Mr. Colin Mackenzie Ford, Consul at Wuhu; Mr. Henry Barnes Bristow, Consul at Chinkiang, and Mr. Charles Walter Everard, Vice-Consul at Pagoda Island. The appointments to consulates in Japan, which we gave the other day, were gazetted at the same time.

We learn from the *Hongkong Telegraph* that Mr. James H. Hart, who had been appointed to Tamsui as Commissioner of Customs, had received in Hongkong telegraphic instructions to remain there for the present. It was rumoured that he would replace Mr. F. W. White as Commissioner at Canton.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council in Hongkong on the 2nd instant, Mr. Layton formally withdrew his proposed amendment to the Merchant Shipping Amendment Bill, and explained that nothing was farther from his mind than protecting foreign rather than British interests.

The *China Mail* says:—Viceroy Chang Chi-tung has had the reputation for some time past of being ambitious of making Canton and Kowloon City great mercantile centres. He has been rightly credited with a strong desire to carry through a Canton-Kowloon railway. Some time ago we noticed his removal of export duties on some classes of iron goods and on the export of iron and other ore from Hainan, but we little thought that ere long he would contemplate a petition to Peking to allow the removal of duties on several large classes of foreign imports into Canton. We understand, however, such is the case. If he carry his point his ambition will be rewarded by the sight of rapidly-growing cities in the South.

The *China Overland Trade Report* in its review of the trade of China and Hongkong for 1888, mentions the injury that has been done to Hongkong by the stoppage of Chinese emigration to Australia and California. It adds, however, that this is being compensated for by the increased emigration to the Malay Peninsula and to British North Borneo, where planting enterprise is extending so rapidly. "Much of the capital," it says, "employed in the development of the country is controlled from Hongkong, which is materially interested in its prosperity, for a large trade between the two places will assuredly establish itself if the southern colony continues to progress as it is expected to. Leaving particulars and speaking generally, we think it may be said that the year 1889 is entered upon by the mercantile communities of China with hope and confidence, a general expectation of improved trade being entertained."

The British s.s. *Victoria*, which arrived at Nagasaki on Christmas day, reported leaving Hongkong on the 16th December, in ballast, drawing 13ft. 6in. aft and 9ft. forward. At 9.30 a.m. on the 21st, while passing between High Cone and Triangle Yit, where by the chart she was in 7 fathoms of water, she struck some hard substance, without losing any headway, so that she began to make water, and had to go into dock at Nagasaki, where it was found that her bottom was considerably damaged.

Among the numerous signs of activity in Japan we notice that Messrs. Takata and

Co., of Tokio, were sending 2,000 rifles to China, ordered by the Chinese Government, and that 20,000 persimmon trees were shipped last year to the United States, and that it was proposed to make a shipment of them to England. In Yokohama this activity had taken a less commendable form, Captain Efford's house having been robbed twice, and Mr. George Jamieson having had several overcoats and other things stolen from his hall. They were found hidden in a stable, and a policeman being concealed there, the thief was captured when he called to secure his plunder.

We commend the following extract from the *Japan Mail* to persons intending to travel in Japan this year, and they are advised to be very careful to make themselves familiar with the laws as administered by the Japanese police before going into the interior:—

"In connection," says the *Hochi Shim-bun*, "with certain reforms which are to be introduced next year into the police administration of the empire, we learn that the indulgence hitherto shown to foreigners who violate the law is to be replaced by corresponding strictness. Instructions have been issued to the police by the Home Department that when instances of offences committed by foreigners occur, proofs are to be collected and no leniency whatever is to be shown in dealing with them." What particular class of offences does this allude to, we wonder. Shooting outside treaty limits, perhaps. At the moment we can think of nothing else, nor do we know that the conditions under which their shooting licences are held are often violated by foreigners. If such instructions have been issued, however, it is evident that there must be some reason for them, and we can only hope that the police may not find occasion to abandon their hitherto suave demeanour. On the other hand, if any foreigners travelling in the interior abuse their privileges and bring their nation into disrepute, it will be the wish of all respectable folks that their vagaries should be summarily checked and punished.

The issue of the *Friend of China* for November last has singularly little that is fresh in it, the new secretary to the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade, who edits it, having evidently not yet got firm in the saddle. It is full of the exaggeration of the evils of opium, to which we are now quite accustomed; but to judge from the following note, the Society has come to the conclusion that since the Opium Clause of the Chefoo Convention came into operation, there are moral obstacles to interfering with the opium trade. We read:—"Deeply as we regret the determination of China to admit foreign opium, it is impossible for the British Government and people to suggest that China should be deprived of the advantages of the only agreement between the two nations, in which she was fairly treated, and her just demands conceded. All previous treaties and agreements were soiled with blood, and wrung by superior force from the Chinese. This alone is free from these sad stains, this alone makes some concession to China. Assault upon it from our side would expose us to grave suspicion." The suggestion is made that perhaps China would consent to the exclusion of Chinese from the Australian colonies, on condition that the shipment of Indian opium to China were stopped, but it is dismissed from the "fear that the Chinese government is influenced by its opium revenue." Considering how persistently the *Friend of China* and its supporters have accused England of introducing the fatal drug and forcing its consumption, we are somewhat surprised to find an address by Dr. Edkins reprinted, in which the writer shewed that as long ago as 1729, penalties were attached by law in China to keeping opium taverns; and in 1793, officials were found smoking opium in Peking itself.

Miscellaneous Articles.

A TRAVELLED CHINESE ON FOREIGNERS.

THE Desultory Notes on Western Customs which we reviewed the other day, is perhaps most entertaining when it deals with the treatment accorded to the western female. It isn't so much that the author's facts are ludicrously wrong as that they are ludicrously right; he describes manners and habits familiar to us all our lives with a naive air of discovery, much as Sir John Lubbock might expatiate on the proceedings of a new and not uninteresting variety of ant. "Husband and wife will walk arm in arm along the street, and nobody smile at it; a husband may perform any menial task in his wife's presence, and no one will laugh at him." It always seems to strike a Chinaman as something excessively amusing if a trifle unseemly, that a western husband will give his arm to his wife, the compiler of the *Sights of Shanghai* found it the most striking of all spectacles to be seen in our Public Garden, while no Chinese who was at all sensitive to ridicule would dream of waiting on his wife, as long as there was any one to see. If they were alone, well, our native friends admit, circumstances might be different. "If two or three friends are walking along the streets they must go abreast, not in any straggling order; and if they meet a woman politeness requires that they should make way for her." Could any right-minded Confucianist think of yielding the path to a mere female? and in a country of nice gradations would it be right for a younger brother to keep step with an elder? But in the uncultured West "at meal time, the men must wait till the women are seated, and then take one after another their own places, and the same rule must be observed when the meal is finished." In China, as is but suitable and right, the women lay the table for their lords and when these have gorged themselves dine contentedly off the scraps. "While the women are at the table the men may not smoke out of respect for them, but when the meal is over, they must retire to a separate smoking room, or if there is no such smoking room must wait till the women have left." Foreign customs in the matter of smoking are sufficiently eccentric. "When a guest arrives not only is no tea offered him, but he may smoke or not as he pleases. . . . Men who do not smoke and do not drink are universally respected for their transcendent virtue. Very many women drink but exceedingly few smoke." A Chinese host would very properly look askance at the guest who refused the pipe of peace, and a Chinawoman knows there is solace in the companionable hubble-bubble, let the White Clothes Sect of Shantung imitate as it will the benighted West and denounce tobacco.

The western woman's dress is peculiar in many ways. "Men and women alike when they go out wear gloves [hand sheaths]; they take them off indoors and when they are eating. White gloves are considered the most distinguished, and are worn at an audience with the Queen, and by an actor when he mounts the boards. Women set store by a large bust and slender waist, but as while the waist can be compressed, the bust cannot be naturally enlarged, the majority have a wicker contrivance made which is concealed under the bodice on either side and is considered an adornment. If a woman is short-sighted she will publicly mount spectacles. Even young girls in their teens pass thus along the streets and it is not regarded as strange. Women do not wear fresh flowers in their hair, and those they put in their hats"—the Chinese knows not the subtle distinction so puzzling to the western male, of 'hat,' 'cap' and 'bonnet'—"are all artificial, coloured to closely resemble nature. They are very fond of a touch of fresh flowers, but these they wear thrust into the lappet of their clothes in front of the bosom, observing that the perfume can thus assail the nostrils. The men do the same. Hats are trimmed not only with artificial flowers, but sometimes with all kinds of fruits and berries, or with the plumage of different birds. Among these the feathers of the ostrich are most esteemed, a single feather being worth several dollars. These are of three colours, white, black and red, the red being apparently dyed. Some have whole birds clapped on to the hat, much as the ancients wore their 'plumed caps.' Women's boots are somewhat different from men's narrowness and smallness being considered elegant. The heel moreover is slender and slightly elevated." The author goes on to remark on the perversity which leads women in the West to wear furs and carry fans all the year round. Low dresses he more than once adverts to: "Woman when going to court regard a bare skin as a mark of respect." Kissing puzzles him, and because the word has not yet been incorporated into the Chinese language, he is greatly exercised how to describe the operation at once neatly and with lucidity. He had observed that "when children grew up their parents cease to be responsible for them, and leave them entirely to their own devices. The children on their part regard their parents as strangers, except that when they see them they show them courtesy. The most respectful form of this courtesy consists in presenting their lips to the lower part of the chin and making a sound." Better still in the way of definition is the fuller statement that "when visiting their seniors they must apply their mouths to the left and right lips of the older with a smacking noise." This, it is interesting to hear, he considers exceedingly remarkable. And so, when one comes to think of it, perhaps it is.

"Woman with moustachios are rare," he says, "in China, but in every country of the west they are common, and raise no comment. They (the wearers, presumably) have started an idle saying to the effect that Providence gave it them to embellish their ugliness." The next note is better suited to the voyage to Brobdingnag, and must go untranslated. Further on he observes that "places of business largely employ women behind the counter, this being the case even in the most extensive establishments. Purchasers may freely jest with them without giving offence; indeed, I am told that they are intended to attract custom." He returns to the mingling of the sexes at home and in society. "Men and women sit together indiscriminately, round the same dish and at the same table. A man and his daughter-in-law, a woman and her brother-in-law do not avoid each other's company." A cheerful and sociable place the interior of a Chinese compound must be if conducted according to the very straitest sect of jejune Confucianism! And a Western dinner table too, if the rule which our author gives were strictly enforced: "two guests, strangers to one another, finding themselves side by side must by no means engage in conversation, but must confine their attention to eating and drinking." Thence he passes on to "at homes (small and early) and dances." "Besides invitations to dinner there are invitations to a tea gathering, such as are occasionally given by wealthy merchants or distinguished officials. When the time comes invitations are sent to an equal number of men and women, and after these are all assembled, tea and sugar, milk, bread and the like are set out as aids to conversation. More particularly are there invitations to dance—literally to skip and posture—when the host decides what man is to be the partner of what woman, and what woman of what man. Then with both arms grasping each other they leave their places in pairs, and leap, skip, posture, and prance for their mutual gratification. A man and a woman previously unknown to one another may take part in it! Our author here, as elsewhere, is confronted with the necessary difficulty of expressing in familiar language an unfamiliar phenomenon. 'To skip and posture' (*t'iao-wu*) has indeed long been the phrase into which foreigners have rendered the term to dance, but apparently the present writer feels its inadequacy, for he hastens to observe, "they call this skipping, *tan shên*;" and perhaps in the dictionaries of the future, side by side with words like *telifung* and *panse*,—other jewels gleaned from the *Desultory Notes*,—will be found the *tan shên*, which after all is but the English 'dancing' in a Chinese dress.

CHINESE CURRENCIES WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

THE Council of the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society are asking foreigners all over this empire to unish

particulars of local currencies, weights and measures. The circular which we publish to-day shews how comprehensive the Council wish the enquiry to be, and if missionaries and other foreigners residing in the interior furnish the information asked for, we should know in a few months a good deal about these matters. As regards the money weights and the touch of sycee little is now known by foreigners, and probably, by Chinese, beyond this, that the taels and the touch are many. It is not that each province or city or large place has weights and qualities of silver of its own, but that in most cities there are several taels all employed by the ingenious bankers and money changers. Thousands on thousands, probably millions of people in this country live upon what we call shroffage, and on its attendant evils. Many grow rich thereby, and at the expense of the trade and commerce of the country. Their gains are so much taken from merchants, traders and the community generally; and the requisite security from imposition in tendering inferior or bad sycee or dollars, or short weight in these, might be fully secured for very much less than the immense army of shroffs costs the country. These persons have upon their side such privileges as immemorial custom gives them; they are chartered "squeezers," and their number is so great, they are so bound up with other governmental corruptions, that it will require a long and a strong struggle even to commence a mitigation of the system, or want of system, in currency matters which makes their practices possible. But if the Council can obtain full information from the different provinces, it will be able to present such a picture of confusion in money matters that, possibly, the Central Government may see it to be its interest that remedial measures should be undertaken. It is very likely that no one in authority in Peking or anywhere else, or, we may even say, any person has any conception of the manifold money weights and the variations in "touches" which are in use in China, and therefore a comprehensive report from the Asiatic Society on these might, for something like shame's sake, stir up some opposition to their continuance. It is perhaps unnecessary to say that we are not sanguine about this; but the necessity of establishing something of a general currency throughout the Empire before railways can be introduced on a large scale, may help currency reform forward. It would be almost impossible to work railways unless a great change is made in this respect, or while the sycee and cash of one place is not accepted for its issue value a few fields or a mile or two further on. Passengers and shippers would not appreciate being obliged to wait until their sycee had been tested or their strings of cash investigated. Nor would it suit a railway company to take payment of its fares in a coin or token which was of a variable value day

by day or week by week, as the cash is in respect of silver. But if they did do so they would probably give a great stimulus to the manufacture of counterfeit cash, which would more easily escape detection in the hurry which more or less necessarily attends the transaction of railway business. Probably a paper currency, as in Japan, would be introduced and under certain guarantees it would in time become serviceable to the Government and people, but before anything of the kind can be tried such information as the Council of the Asiatic Society now asks for must be obtained and fully considered by competent people, who should be instructed to ascertain what tael and "touch," or fineness of silver would afford the best basis for what we may call a working, if not a national currency. In collecting the information which the Council asks for the missionaries, Protestant and Catholic, in distant or outlying places will be the best agents, as they will be able to procure it from intelligent Chinese. We do not suppose that any of the missionaries will object altogether to being mixed up with such very earthly things, but if any such feeling should present itself to their minds, we would hope that the good, which as we have indicated, full information on the subject would probably do to their own countrymen and to the Chinese, will be allowed to weigh against it. There are immense districts in their country where missionaries are the only foreigners, and are therefore the only persons by or through whom replies to the queries of the Council can be obtained. In former times the Catholic missionaries collected and published all they could learn about China's commerce and her money system. Le Comte and Clerc, and the Jesuits on whose reports Du Halde wrote his history are examples. It is in their pages that the greater part of what we know about these matters in China is to be found. This work might well have formed a part of the Special Reports which the Inspector-General of Customs has caused to be drawn up and published, such as those on silk and opium. But as the Council of the Asiatic Society has undertaken it, we do not doubt that it will obtain assistance in gathering information on the subjects mentioned in the circular from the Customs' staff and their chief. Through Sir Robert Hart's influence much information on these matters might be obtained from Chinese sources, from distant yet busy parts of the Empire where foreigners have scarcely ever been seen.

THE MARQUIS OF DUFFERIN'S VICEROYALTY.

I.

THE Bombay and Calcutta newspapers which have just reached us contain exhaustive reviews of the Viceroyalty of the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava which had just ended. There is a general concurrence of opinion in them

that his policy has been successful if not brilliant. One paper which has not always supported him, says, with probably some truth:—"We owe Lord Dufferin's coming amongst us, partly to the fact of his age, but more largely to the necessity of finding a man whose large sympathies and almost cosmopolitan experience pointed him out as the most likely man in the whole service of the Crown, to bridge the gulf which Lord Ripon's strong sympathies with the people had unfortunately opened between the two races." The bitter, and almost angry, feeling between Englishmen and natives which Lord Ripon's rash policy had provoked had, the same paper acknowledges, disappeared, and this is greatly due to the tact and common sense of Lord Dufferin. But this success has not made the native press just to him, indeed many of their newspapers are very angry because he could not fulfil what they call the claims of India, that is, for not doing what Lord Ripon wrecked himself in attempting. His conquest of Burma, the Sikkim expedition and the activity on the frontiers and beyond them, in extending and strengthening the defences have led his detractors to find a parallel between him and Lord Dalhousie. The latter great Viceroy make several large annexations of territory, for which a certain school of politicians and writers at home and a part of the native press have not forgiven him. But it is pointed out that there is really no parallel between the policy of the two Viceroys; Lord Dufferin annexed Burma, it is true, but he did so in compliance with the instructions of the India Office and the demands of public opinion in India. It will be remembered that Lord Randolph Churchill, then Secretary of State for India, said that the cost of the expedition to and the conquest of Burma would not exceed £300,000, and it is probable that this expectation led to the first measures adopted for the possession of the country being framed on too small a plan. The delay which has taken place in the pacification of the country has seemed to strengthen the contention of those who were opposed to the annexation, but Lord Dufferin has not been to blame for this. As one journal points out, Lord Dufferin lies under the disadvantage of having to confront Indian—that is native—opinion on the annexation, with only half the justification which he could plead in the courts of conscience and expediency, if the prohibition to refer to the French factor in the matter were removed. The French factor, it goes on to say, in the Burmese problem, though it necessarily had a prevailing influence over the minds of those who had to determine the course that our policy should take, has for obvious reasons never been put in the foreground in any authoritative vindication of Lord Dufferin's policy. Time will remove the injunction to secrecy which still binds official lips, in regard not only to this, but to

some other international aspects of the question of Upper Burma. With Russia a disturbing neighbour in the North West, and the French established on the upper reaches of the Irrawady, the difficulties of governing India and the cost of defending her would have been greatly increased, the latter to a far greater extent than the expenditure which has been incurred in Burma. Besides, a financial equilibrium in the Province will come in time.

The cost of the defences of the North-West is another charge which his Indian critics bring against the late Viceroy. But here again it is justly pointed out that it was the nation which insisted on these works being undertaken. A contrast between what Mr. Gladstone's government did three years or more ago and the conduct of Lord Dufferin at the same time, exhibits his Lordship in a very favourable light. Parliament voted an expenditure of eleven millions sterling, most of which was scandalously wasted. Lord Dufferin formed and carefully carried out a comprehensive plan of imperial defence. The paper from which we have been quoting remarks:—"The results of this expenditure are already to be seen, plain, tangible, and formidable against any possible danger. Whether or not an increase of thirty thousand men in the army in India—a third of them British and therefore costly—was necessary is a question upon which there is believed to have been a difference of opinion within the Government itself, and which has certainly been freely debated outside. The construction of military roads opening up the passes on the frontier to interior lines of communication, the large additions that have been made to the strategic railway lines in the north-west, the strong defensive works that have been undertaken at Peshawur and Attock, at Peshin and Sukkar—all these have increased the effective power of the army to a degree scarcely inferior to that of an army corps.

But the defences of the Indian Empire have not been confined to the North-west. The defences of Bombay will be completed next year; so also will the scheme on hand for strengthening Aden and Calcutta, while a year later the defences of Kurrachee and Rangoon will be finished. A Reserve for the native army has also been created on the basis of the one in operation at home. All these things have been done in the face of considerable financial difficulties, and apparently with every regard to economy. Of the frontier military railways 670 miles have been opened during Lord Dufferin's administration, and 211 miles are in course of construction, and though these have been made for imperial defence, they will also to some extent aid in developing the commerce of the country. And for this last end 2,235 miles have been opened since 1884, and 2,635 are in course of construction. Between three and four crores of rupees have been spent on irrigation in the same period. At

the same time a judicious revision of the railway policy of the State has been instituted. It is no doubt mainly owing to the liberal policy with regard to these undertakings that the commerce of India has increased fourteen millions sterling in value during the last four years, and this notwithstanding the fall in prices of which we hear so much. To the same policy is due the fact that "the export trade alone of 1887 is greater than the imports and exports of the merchandise in 1868. In other directions, such as the administration of territories directly and indirectly under its charge, the activity of Lord Dufferin's government is described as phenomenal. "Sanitation, gaol administration, public instruction and the administration of criminal justice have each in turn been the subject of diligent enquiry and exhaustive review." There are other portions of Lord Dufferin's career in India to which we may allude in a future number. In the meantime we will only say that the demonstrations previous to his departure, nominal as some of them may have been, shew that he and the Marchioness are held in high esteem by their countrymen and the intelligent natives.

II.

LORD DUFFERIN'S personal character and his genial courteous bearing towards all with whom he came in contact had a good deal to do with the success of his administration. It has happened that Viceroys of India have injured their influence by the want of that happy tact and bearing which Lord Dufferin possesses, in an eminent degree. This recommended him to the foreign communities, to the services, and to the native princes and gentry. But the native press, and possibly some of the Englishmen who have adopted extreme views on Indian matters, those, for instance, who are taking an active part in the Congress, saw in these characteristics only evidence of his lordship's duplicity. The very amiability of his character, says one Calcutta paper, and his courtesy to all, have been made the occasion for suggesting that he assumed his genuineness courteous bearing for the more effectual concealment of his real feelings towards the people. The writer goes on to disclaim any sympathy with criticism of that kind, for to put it at the lowest, it will be admitted that a ruler who continues to be courteous to all with whom he comes in contact is better than a Viceroy whose discourtesy adds humiliation to the disappointment of all those who approach him with a petition upon their lips. Our contemporary goes on to say that it would almost have seemed at times that Lord Dufferin would have better consulted his own popularity by assuming a hardness of manner, which would have been unattractive to him. On this singular suggestion we may ask what would have been said by the native press and their sympathisers, such as the paper we are quoting from, had his

Lordship acted in this manner, in order to consult his own popularity? If his pleasant ways offended, what would have been the effect of his assuming a hardness of manner, as a grown-up person may do to a child which sees through the deception.

Just before he left Calcutta, Lord Dufferin was present at the St. Andrew's dinner, and made a long and rather important speech. The portion of it which attracted most attention in India is his remarks on the political aims of the National Congress of natives at Madras. He pointed out the numerous divisions and subdivisions of people which make up the Indian Cosmos. The two large and chief communities—Hindus numbering 190 millions and Mahomedans 50 millions, are differentiated by Sikhs, Rohillas, Pathans, Assamese, Biloochees, besides wild tribes of hillmen here and there, and the Burmese, Khonds, Mairs, Bheels, in the centre and south of India, to say nothing of the Parsees. England is accountable for the good government of all these and many other communities, and for their welfare and progress. He shewed how the government of the East India Company was of necessity a strong, uncompromising despotism, and that this system had been changed and rendered less rigorous, and that by the introduction of local Legislative Councils, about twenty-four years ago, a certain number of natives were associated with the Government in enacting measures suitable to local wants, and in other measures all tending to the same end. But he deprecated the object of the Congress, which he described as to take a very big jump into the unknown, by the application to India of democratic methods of government and the adoption of a Parliamentary system which England herself has only reached by slow degrees. How dangerous this would be he shewed by the following remarks—"Out of the whole population of British India, which may be put at 200 millions in round numbers, not more than five or six per cent. can read and write, while less than one per cent. have any knowledge of English. Thus the overwhelming mass of the people, perhaps one hundred and ninety out of the two hundred millions, are still steeped in ignorance, and of the ten or twelve millions who have acquired education, three-fourths or perhaps less, have not attained to more than the most elementary knowledge. Lord Dufferin contended that the Congress did not represent the people of India, and said it was evident that large sections of the community were becoming alarmed at the thought of such self-constituted bodies interposing between themselves, and the august impartiality of English rule. He dwelt upon the many dangers which a sudden and great disturbance of the present system would involve, but said:—"The more we enlarge the surface of our contact with the educated and intelligent public opinion of India, the better; and although I hold it absolutely necessary

not merely for the maintenance of our own power, but for the good government of the country and for the general content of all classes and especially of the people at large, that England should never abdicate her supreme control of public affairs, or delegate to a minority, to a class, the duty of providing for the welfare of the diversified communities over which she rules, I am not the less convinced that we could, with advantage, draw more largely than we have hitherto done on native intelligence and native assistance in the discharge of our duties. I have had ample opportunities of gauging and appreciating to its full extent the measure of good sense, of practical wisdom, and of experience which is possessed by the leading men of India both among the great nobles on the one hand, and among the leisured and professional classes on the other, and I have now submitted officially to the home authorities some personal suggestions in harmony with the foregoing views."

Whatever good Lord Dufferin's administration may have done or may do to India, the work which his wife has accomplished will be more beneficial. The establishment of The Countess of Dufferin's Fund, to provide properly educated female medical aid to the women of India, especially by the establishment of dispensaries and the training of midwives, owes its success to the care and prudence with which she watched over and promoted its interests. About seven lacs of rupees have been collected for it in India, it has received the support of several Princes, and of large numbers of the enlightened part of the native community, and even the most conservative sacerdotalism the world has ever seen has given it some support. Three Indian nobles contributed among them two of the seven lacs which were subscribed. The central Committee over which Lady Dufferin presided had to determine the policy on which the Association should be conducted, and, besides raising the subscriptions, it obtained the official recognition of the medical ladies employed by grouping them in the following grades: 1, Lady doctors; 2, female assistant surgeons; 3, female hospital assistants. In the three or four years or so, which the Association has been in existence, it has done good work, so that one of the Bombay papers writing of it a few months ago described it as a great movement, whose far-reaching effect it is impossible to gauge, and which will be for ever associated in the grateful memories of millions of Indian women with the name of Lady Dufferin. As the good work becomes better known in the East, we may hope that similar Associations will be founded in China. The Margaret Williamson Hospital here accomplishes the aims of the Lady Dufferin Association to some slight extent, and is, we hope, the forerunner of many other benevolent institutions of the same kind.

FRENCH-MAIL PAPERS.

The *Saturday* comments at some length on Lord Randolph Churchill's speech at Paddington, and his political position at the present time. It asks why should Lord Salisbury and his colleagues expose themselves to the annoyance and risks of his companionship, after he had by his noisy and unreasonable resignation of office destroyed his influence in the country. It admits that he led the House of Commons well for a few months, and while letting it be understood that it agrees with those who say that Mr. Smith is not a success in that line, points out that on one side of the present leader is Mr. Goschen and on the other Mr. Balfour, the latter of whom has all Lord Randolph's qualifications for the position with some that the noble lord has lost and others that he never had. The conclusion arrived at by the writer is:—

In short, the member for Paddington is not wanted, there is no need of him in the Ministerial galley. No longer do there seem to be any commanding reasons for admitting him, though there are many and grave ones for wishing him outside, at a helpful distance. Of course we know what the answer to that is. If he is kept at a distance he will not be helpful, but resolutely and violently hostile. Very likely. But they who say this, believing what they say, testify to the existence in him of a turbulent spirit uncontrolled by principle. For the rest, the harm that he might do in "turning out the Government" could not be great, he being now pretty well understood; while the harm that he might do in the Government cannot be described without reference to faults and failings which it is not pretty to name. Of course he may have been cured of them; and even without evidence that he has, we ought not to doubt, perhaps, that punishment and reflection therewith have had in his case their natural results. But the plain truth is that Lord Randolph is regarded with as much distrust as ever "out of doors," and it is there that he should make his proofs. His cleverness nobody doubts; his industry is notorious; that he possesses certain precious gifts of fascination is undeniable. What he has now to show is that he has "got religion" in the shape of principles, and that it is erroneous to suppose that he cannot be modest enough to make association with him tolerable, and loyal enough to make it safe. And this he could soon do, in Parliament and on the platform, with steady endeavour added to the necessary grace, though hardly by such speeches as that of Thursday.

Writing on what was said by Lord Salisbury, the Emperor of Germany, and in the French Chamber on the measures to be adopted by the Powers for the suppression of the slave trade in East Africa, the *Saturday* points out that with regard to ulterior operations, after those on sea, we are not much wiser than we were—

All idea of an immediate Anglo-German expedition by land, in which England was to be cat paw and piper-payer at once, also appears to have been at last dispelled, and it has also dawned upon even locally-interested persons that the contrast between English and German modes of dealing is likely to be more, and not less, strongly impressed on the mind of the natives by the probable result of the proceedings.

On "The Morality of Trade Rings" the writer says of the possible effect of these in strengthening socialism:—

Possibly a clear sense of the conduct of all such persons would be brought home to them—in England at any rate—if they were asked what they thought of trades-unionism, and answered according to their wont; short-sighted selfishness, ruinous to British industry. But at least the workman has the excuse of heavy toil and poverty therewith. What excuse have these other industrialists? In all cases they are rich. In some, they have more money than they know what to do with. They take to trade syndicates to heap pile on pile, and that is all. And if they think that nobody's business but their own they are mistaken. All society is concerned with it in a very distinct measure. This is not exactly an era of Socialism; but it is certain that

Socialistic doctrine, not only of the benevolent unworkable kind, but the malignant sort with practicable outlets into terrorism, is gaining ground all over the civilised world. So far, it has been supposed that Germany, where capital flaunts its luxuries a little too bravely and carelessly, or (later) the United States, with its exhibition of monstrous millionaires glutted with "plunder" to an almost ridiculous excess, might be the first theatre of Socialistic violence. There may be not much danger to either State at present; but with closely aggregated masses of poverty in our own land, with an increasing number of demagogues preaching down the law, we cannot afford to be entered in competition for that danger—whatever it may amount to—by Jay Goulds of native growth. Before English capitalists engage themselves any further in commercial Kings, we hope they will take these considerations into account.

A short article on "Openings at Chess" begins with these remarks:—

Particular chess openings have their time to fall, like the flowers and leaves; but, unlike them, they have their time to flourish again. The history of the game shows that all the more important gambits, openings, and defences have undergone strange vicissitudes, coming in and going out of fashion in the most capricious manner. There is not much to be concluded from the fact, except that none of them has been so firmly established in the good opinion of chessplayers as to cause it to be constantly adopted in preference to all others. It would be very unfortunate for the game if there were any special line of play which led, as a matter of course, to a distinct superiority of position; but the laws and characteristics of chess render it impossible. The experience of inventors in this line shows that there is no enduring patent for any innovation on the older processes. A move or a combination may seem exceptionally strong until it has been analysed and expounded in the text-books, and then it loses its terrors for the well-read chessplayer. Practically speaking, every move has its adequate reply, warranted as best, and effectual for defence in the hands of an equal adversary. There is no opening to which the second player cannot respond, whether by declining or by a counter attack, in such a manner as to leave the opener without perceptible advantage. Of course we are aware that the man who has conceived and fathered an opening all to himself (and a terrible nuisance he is when not kept well in hand) will fight desperately for the reputation of his offspring; but many such champions have come and gone, and the dust has covered them. The genius of the game is stronger than the talent of its greatest proficient.

The *Spectator* has an article on the debate in the House of Commons on the Ashbourne Act on which it points out the singular weakness of Mr. Gladstone's speech in moving his amendment. It would almost seem, from this and other depreciatory utterances of our contemporary, as if it was beginning to feel a strange delight in finding fault with its former idol. But a few years ago the *Spectator* saw Mr. Gladstone shining like the sun, now it sees that sun through clouds. It deals in the following article with the threat of Mr. Dillon, in the same debate, that if the additional five millions of advances necessary to carry out the purchase system under Lord Ashbourne's Act should be authorised, the Irish party would very likely find it necessary to direct that the instalments on the new peasant's purchases are not to be paid. "What they say of Mr. Bright" is very appreciative of the sick statesman's character, but it says nothing of his love of fighting. Lord Palmerston once said of Mr. Bright that if he had not been born and bred a quaker he would have made an excellent prize fighter, and his attacks as men and things to which he was opposed were bitter, sometimes almost to savageness. "Astronomy and Theology" is a reply to a statement made by Mr. Frederic Harrison in his recent Apology for Positivism, that the Christian faith could not possibly have originated in an age that had had a heliocentric astronomy. It does not think that that system of astronomy has in any vital respect altered at all the validity of the

theological conception of the Jewish and Christian revelations. It says:—

Nay, we would go further, and say that if our astronomy could have been known to the Jews, it would have decidedly reinforced instead of undermining, the general teaching of their inspired books. Indeed, so far as the Jewish prophets made use of such astronomy as they had, they used it altogether in the sense in which the modern agnostics use their heliocentric astronomy,—to impress upon man his utter insignificance in creation. When Isaiah wants to make his countrymen feel that princes are mere dust, what does he say? God, he says, "brought princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. Yea, they have not been planted; yea, they have not been sown; yea, their stock hath not taken root in the earth: moreover, he bloweth upon them and they wither, and the whirlwind taketh them away as stubble. To whom, then, will ye liken me that I should be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high; and see who hath created these, that bringeth out their host by number; he calleth them all by name; by the greatness of his might, and for that he is strong in power, not one faileth." When the author of the Book of Job, in urging what another prophet calls "the Lord's controversy," wants to convince Job of his nothingness, what is his most impressive illustration?—"Canst thou bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades?"—[or, as the Revised Version puts it, "Canst thou bind the cluster of the Pleiades?"]—"or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou lead forth the signs of the Zodiac in their season, or canst thou guide the Bear with her train? Knowest thou the ordinances of the heavens? Canst thou establish the dominion thereof in the earth?"—language surely, if ever language could be used, which suggests that to control the heavenly bodies implies a force of far mightier scope and magnitude than any which is needed only for our little planet. Or take the prophet Amos:—"Ye that turn judgment to wormwood, and cast down righteousness to the earth, seek him that maketh the Pleiades and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, that maketh the day dark with night,"—a passage which seems a sort of anticipation of Wordsworth's apostrophe to Duty:—

"Thou canst preserve the stars from wrong,
And the most ancient heavens through
these are fresh and strong."

* * * * *

We do not, of course, imagine for a moment that the Jewish prophets had any inkling of modern astronomy; but this we do assert, that if they had known it in all its physical magnificence, they could hardly have used astronomical images with surer effect for the very purpose for which they did use them,—namely, to make man feel his own utter insignificance in the presence of him who, to cite the striking and almost scientific language of Isaiah, had "weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance."

The *Pall Mall* continues its attacks on the Home Secretary and demands that he shall be got rid of, but another Gladstonian paper points out that is bad policy on the part of radicals. If Mr. Matthews is so bad a Minister, it says that radicals should be glad to see him kept in office, or any other colleague of his who is likely to get the Government into a mess. Mr. Archibald Forbes contributes a short paper on General Sheridan which concludes with these sentences:—

Grant had marked his merit, and when that chief, elevated to the command of the Union armies in the field, went east in the spring of 1864 to confront and finally to vanquish Lee, he summoned Sheridan to be the leader of the cavalry corps belonging to the army of the Potomac. It was then that Sheridan's great opportunity came to him, and he made the most of it. He took the Northern horsemen from the wearing and purposeless picket service, and welded them into a corps, with which he fought and worsted Stuart's famous cavalry, with which he covered the marches of the infantry, and with which he repeatedly broke up Lee's communications with his base. No claim is made for him that he made any discovery in the art of war; what he did was to ~~re-arrange~~ the mounted arm to the proper ~~metier~~ of cavalry, and to use it with judgment,

boldness, and vigour. So brilliant was Sheridan's work as a cavalry leader that his name has come to be associated chiefly with that rôle; but in this injustice has been done him, for he handled all the arms with equal skill, enterprise, and success. Grant recognised the wide scope of his capacity when he sent him into the Shenandoah Valley, to deal with Early, and to lay waste that storehouse of the Confederacy. The caution with which, in the face of clamour, he waited until Kershaw had been withdrawn from Early, and the vehement alacrity with which he then sent the latter "whirling up the valley," till at length as the result of combat after combat, the Confederate chief rode into Richmond with a mere fragment of his army, attest beyond question Sheridan's possession of the highest military capacity. Of the final fierce struggle that culminated in Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House he stands out as the principal figure, in whose track of tornado-like energy Grant seems to follow tamely. In the soldierly characteristics of Sheridan and Skobelev there was much in common. Both men had innate military genius; both had the magnetism which inspired to heroism the men they led; both when occasion called, became veritable thunderbolts of war; both had their fighting ardour under full control; and both were endowed with an infinite capacity for taking pains to achieve success.

Criticising the speech of the German Emperor to the Reichstag the *St. James'* says—

"Our relations with all foreign Governments," said the Emperor, "are peaceful." This, of course, is a phrase of common-form; but the Emperor took pains to show that he meant something by it. "My efforts continue to be directed to the consolidation of peace. Our alliance with Austria and Italy has no other aim. To plunge Germany needlessly into the horrors of a war, even of a victorious one, I should not find compatible with my belief as a Christian, or with the duties which I, as Emperor, have undertaken towards the German people. . . . The confidence that was shown in me and my policy at all the Courts which I visited warrants me in hoping that I and my allies and friends will, succeed in maintaining the peace of Europe." This last sentence is not especially optimistic. The Emperor hopes that with God's help he and his allies "may succeed in maintaining the peace of Europe;" a qualified aspiration which seems to show that there is a considerable tendency to break the peace somewhere, if not among the allies and friends of the German Court. But at any rate these are admirable sentiments from the lips of a young Sovereign who was supposed to be yearning to play the part of another Frederick II., if not that of a new and improved Charles XII. The sincerity of his professions are to be gauged not so much by his religious interjections as by his definite reference to the social and economic policy, inaugurated in his grandfather's time, which he intends to carry to completion. Here lies the best guarantee that Germany will not go to war if she can possibly help it. Her statesmen understand perfectly that the country is in a state of transition, economically and socially. The chief work of the later portion of her great leader's active career has been to devise means for securing society against the dangers with which it is threatened by the poverty and discontent of the masses under the operation of unrestricted industrial competition. That the elaborate and ingenious series of measures designed to effect this end should have a fair chance is probably an object much nearer to Prince Bismarck's heart than that fresh German victories should be won on the battlefield, or more dearly-bought successes gained over rivals and neighbours.

Let us hope that these anticipations will be realised.

Outports.

CHRISTMAS IN ICHANG.

An illumination and dinner party at the hospitable Consulate celebrated the occasion, which was rendered really joyful for Ichang by the *Kuling's* arrival first thing in

the day, all dressed out with flags and Christmas greenery, and bringing us Christmas letters and cards direct from England. One of the oldest inhabitants said during all her stay in China she had never before received Christmas greetings to the day as at home. May this prove of good augury for the *Kuling's* at last obtaining the long delayed Permit for Chungking. Only one of the passengers who came expressly to go up in her or her initial trip yet lingers on in Ichang. And as yet we have no news whatever of the delegates. It begins to look as if they would not come till after China New Year.

The weather has altogether altered; the thermometer now rises above 60 in the shade out of doors most days, and the sun rises in the morning like a beautiful golden ball.

26th Dec.

NEWCHWANG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The principal topic of conversation since the last steamers cleared out, has been regarding H.M.S. *Cockchafer*. Will she return and dock for the winter, was the question for many days, for although she went to Chefoo when the ice forced her to retire, the river for some days seemed to be pretty safe later on, and the Consul, we hear, telegraphed for her to come back, a request which was so far complied with that Captain Maxwell came into the river again on 2nd inst., but found it too dangerous to come up to the British Settlement, and so finally retired to warmer climes. The point may now be settled, and we must do without the gunboat, so earnestly applied for. What cannot be cured must be endured. "There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and lip," and the fact that we were so near having the advantage of the *Cockchafer's* protection, not to add the great and pleasurable social advantages anticipated on our too short acquaintance with the Commander and Officers, will only make the disappointment the greater. The "At homes," *Soirées dansantes*, Theatricals, Athletics, comparatively stale and unprofitable now—would have helped us well over four months during which we are completely isolated—one might say ice isolated—but there is not warmth enough for a pun. Honestly our friends in the South, or even the residents at Tientsin, where they have two or more gunboats, cannot imagine how people are situated in these cold regions, where we have not even the consolation of work during the winter. Even a jolly good row, it was remarked once, would be better than no change at all. Fortunately the community is too small for such a luxury. Now as to the troubles that might render a gunboat almost a necessity, the authorities are striving to limit the distress in the neighbourhood, but it is a hard task. Within a mile and half (5 or 6 li) from where the *Cockchafer's* dock reminds us continually of what we have lost, there are bands of villagers up to 500 strong—men, women and children—chi Ta-jia—who eat up everything. The only way to stop them is to feed them, and this is being attempted. It is a work of some magnitude, for the famished people are counted by thousands, the relief of whom is far beyond the already impoverished landowners. Will the Chinese Government be able to cope with the distress? If not, we are very unsafe at the port. The rumours alone are enough to make one feel miserable at the idea that the gunboat would not only, in a case of emergency, have been a thorough defence, but that the rumours themselves would hardly be noticed. Three or four months of this kind of thing you will admit, even if we turn up safe and sound when the first steamers in the Spring come to dig us up, will hardly compensate some who perhaps would have absented themselves under present circumstances. The weather so far has

been rather mild and fine, and the thermometer (Fahr) has not registered more than 20 to 22° frost, although the ice has been floating up and down the river in huge masses since the 22nd ult. Great disappointment has been felt at the non arrival of foreign mails. H.M. Consul and other residents wrote to Shanghai for mails to be forwarded to Tientsin as long as steamers were able to go there from Shanghai so that the mails might begin to reach us by courier from Tientsin. The first courier arrived from Tientsin on 1st December, the second on 8th December, but although the Customs have their home letters, no English mail has come. It is inexplicable; surely the request of H.B.M. Consul was sufficient, even if there were a little friction between the British Postmaster and the Customs Postal authorities. For these northern ports our mails are certainly better conducted (they could not be better in fact) by the Customs than by the British, local or other post officers who do not seem to pay any attention at all to what is required.

14th December

Yesterday was quite a mild, pleasant day; the maximum being about 38 to 40°; in the evening a skating tournament commenced on the Consular pond, under the kind auspices of the Customs mess, with every promise that the enjoyment would last for hours. The ice was good, lanterns looked gay and the Band (Fusilier's own) under the leadership of Signor Tehtreb gave a good idea of what could be done with Bettert instruments—when all at once our well-known and dreaded "Boreal" stepped in unannounced and took the place by storm. All was *saute qui pent* in a moment—the beautiful refreshments which has just commenced to circulate, being completely neglected. The sudden change has of course affected the thermometer which this morning stands at 5°—showing a difference in twelve hours of 33 degrees. The river is partly frozen over, but not permanently set.

15th Dec.

PEKING.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The new Pei-t'ang Cathedral was solemnly consecrated on Sunday, December the 9th. There was a large attendance of the members of the Foreign Legations, Customs and College. The Foreign Representatives were in full uniform, and four of the Ministers of the Tsung-li Yamén were also present. The place of honour was of course occupied by Bishop Tagliabue who was supported by a large staff of foreign and native priests. Mass was said after the consecration, and an efficient brass band played appropriate sacred music. The entire ecclesiastical staff paraded the large and handsome building in every part, the Bishop sprinkling holy water on the walls as he slowly passed along, while a suitable hymn in Latin was beautifully chanted by the large choir of priests. Among the foreign Ministers, the place of honour was reserved for the French Minister. After the dedication a most sumptuous breakfast was served for over some hundred guests. The sisters of charity with the foreign ladies occupied a part of the Cathedral and had breakfast by themselves, superintended by the Lady Superior. Speeches in French were delivered by the Bishop and the Ministers. One toast was given by Col. Denby in excellent and fluent French in honour of Père Favier the distinguished priest-architect of this noble building—the finest of the four Roman Catholic Churches at the capital. It was received with the greatest enthusiasm and shewed how well deserved the compliment was and what a general favourite the able Father is. He wore his beautiful Chinese official dress and blue button on the occasion. The day was rather dull and gloomy and cold,

and the chilly feeling inside was only relieved by the interesting ceremonial and the beauty of the edifice. The Bishop and Père Favier have made calls of thanks upon the Legations for their attendance at the ceremony.

After several nights of the electric illumination, which was witnessed by crowds of officials and people, the whole apparatus has been conveyed to the palace of the Seventh Prince for inspection and trial previous to being taken into the Palace. The engine was transported to the residence of Prince Ch'un on the night of the 12th, being drawn by hundreds of coolies and the streets lined with soldiery. It took seven hours to cover some two miles.

The Temple of Heaven incident has been satisfactorily arranged, the Tsung-li Yamén having in an official despatch expressed to H.E. the German Minister their regret at what has happened. The Secretaries of the Yamén had previously been severely censured by the Prince President.

The winter weekly dances at the Inspectorate-General was begun on the 12th. The Band has been strengthened, and there is every prospect as far as the Customs is concerned of passing an agreeable season. The weather remains bright and warm by day, with about 12 degrees of cold by night, without dust and wind. Skating has not yet commenced. We are now quite shut out from the outer world, and we expect our first overland mail some time before Christmas. H.E. the German Minister has issued his invitations to his annual Christmas tree.

The railway to Tungchow has at last been sanctioned by the Throne. A joint memorial from the various members of the Admiralty Board advocating the measure brought forth on the 8th of the month a favourable reply, and the construction of the work has, as was expected, been assigned to the K'ai-ping Company. We look forward to the completion of the line by this time next year.

At the last Missionary Association meeting, Mr. Goodrich of Tungchow read an interesting paper with the novel motto, "How to be a missionary and make no converts." An interesting discussion followed. Dr. Edkins is to read a paper on the Poetry of Li-t'ai-po, a poet of the T'ang dynasty, at the next Oriental Society's meeting. By the way Dr. Edkins has printed a thickish brochure on the Evolution of the Hebrew Language, a companion volume to the one read at the Oriental Society, and since published, on the evolution of the Chinese Language. We believe the same plan is to be extended to the Mongol.

Dec. 18th.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

The *British North Borneo Herald* is becoming quite a formidable journal, the last number received, that for December, extending including the *Official Gazette* to 28 pages. The opening article is on the new staple, which now does more than promise to make the fortune of the colony, tobacco. A consignment of 280 bales has just been sold at Amsterdam at an average price of 1.26 (the currency is not stated) or more than 15c. in excess of the average price realised by the Sumatra crops; and as the quantity was sufficient to ensure that the rate realised was not a fancy one, and as it represents a profit to the growers of 30 per cent, there is great satisfaction with the result. It is stated too that an even better average would have been gained, but for certain easily remediable defects in the manner of packing and assorting the consignment. Full direction on this subject are given in the article, which contains also some valuable remarks on the labour question in the colony. Tobacco-growers will find much to interest them also in the article which follows, translated from the *Indische Mercur*, from which we learn that:—

"The honour of Deli's glory, is due to Mr. Nienhuys of Netherland's bright spot in India, even to this day. May every Dutchman and the Government also value and recognise this fact, at the approach of Deli's first 25 years jubileum, etc."

Mr. S. B. J. Skertchly contributes an amusing sketch of a hunt for elephants in the North Borneo jungle, a fine hunting country, where "you could see two yards ahead where it was clearest." Mr. Pryer and Mr. Allard were in the party and they separated in order to surround the prey, which was heard slowly plunging through the cane-brake:—"Nearer and nearer it came, plainer sounded the crackling canes, and soon one could see the leaves swaying. My time was coming. So was it. I cocked my gun, and my knees, never strong, seemed to rattle and want to strike work. I began to be very sorry for Allard and Pryer. They wouldn't get an elephant. I would have gone silently, swiftly away and given up the moment I so coveted to them, if those Dyaks hadn't been there. They would say I funked. These savages have no self-denial. They would have stood there, and seen me pile dead elephants all along the river, with never a thought for Allard and Pryer."

As the beast came nearer, Mr. Skertchly cocked both barrels and was just about to fire, "when a hand was laid on my arm, and a Dyak said "Orang, Tuan, orang." In my excitement I thought of orang utans, and was just going to blaze away at all hazards, when the beast appeared. It was Allard."

The following note shews that there are drawbacks even in such a paradise as Sandakan; we presume from the last sentence that the coolie was working at that late hour for his own amusement, not a common failing in a Chinese coolie:—"Some nights ago, at about halfpast nine o'clock, as three Chinese coolies were doing tide work in tying timber in Messrs. E. E. Abrahamson & Co's timber yard, a crocodile attacked one of them and wounded him on the left shoulder. The man sent up deafening shouts which caused a crowd to gather on the wharf and Leila Bridge. He would have been carried away had he not clung to a log where he was rescued by his friends. We hear that he has now fairly recovered, and we hope this will be a caution to other timber coolies who work at night."

A copy is given of the address presented by the residents of Perak to Mr. C. V. Creagh on his leaving that community to take up the Government of British North Borneo. One sentence in the address is rather amusing:—

"North Borneo is a country the true development of which will need all your energy. This we are sure will be fully and freely given."

While tobacco is mainly engaging the energies of the colony, timber, coffee, cocoa, sugar and pepper are all receiving attention. A detailed lists of estates shews that there are already 58 of them, comprising about 550,000 acres, nearly all paid for. Most of them are tobacco estates; in the case of a few of them we find the product stated to be "application." We should have thought that application was rather indispensable to the securing of products, than a product itself: we find, however, that it means that the estate has not yet been paid for.

In his report on a visit up to the Kinabatangan River Mr. Pryer mentions a fact which speaks well for the honesty of the natives. He says:—

"I landed at Samag and went to Mr. Flint's store, which I found quite deserted, there being no one in charge of it. I went over it and everything seemed in order. There are not many countries where one could leave one's belongings open in this way without fear of robbery."

The rapid progress Sandakan is making is shewn by the tonnage entering and leaving.

ing the port having risen from 6,676 tons in January to 11,265 tons in November last.

Among his other arduous duties Mr. Pryer, it appears, is British Consular Agent at Sandakan, and his report for 1887 to Consul General Hamilton on the Territories of the B.N.B. Company is printed in full, and gives a readable summary of the situation. The following paragraph is worth extracting:—

"The great need of the country is population. So far the people are so few, and their natural advantages in the way of forest produce, soil, and climate so great, that the extreme minimum of labour has been sufficient to provide them with bare daily necessities, which is all they have hitherto required, the consequence being that nearly all of them are idle and lazy in the extreme. In such places where the population is numerous enough to cause some slight struggle for existence they show a fair capability for working. When the people get rather more extended requirements, and the population gets a little thicker, no doubt they will soon develop their powers of industry, as they all of them have more or less infusion of Chinese blood in their veins. So far almost their only mode of indulging in excitement has taken the form of head hunting, of which there was one rather unfortunate case at the beginning of the year in the Mungkok district, in the centre of the country, when 22 heads were taken: the extension of roads and the imposition of a small tax is expected to quite put a stop to this practice, besides working for good in various other ways."

The Government notifications in the *Gazette* are mostly of local interest. It is notified that a free pardon had been granted to a notorious head hunter named Tambarang, who had made his submission, the ceremony being thus described by Mr. Wheatley to whom the culprit came to take the oath of allegiance:—

"Sinpoke the chief of Bundu brought down a buffalo and I gave them another, both were killed and the blood sprinkled on a stone and the oath taken. At night I had a magic lantern display and the next morning they returned to their homes very well pleased."

Peking Gazettes.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTES.

STATE OF EDUCATION IN SHANSI.

December 8th.—(1) The Chancellor of Shansi, in reporting his arrival at his post, states that the literary reputation of the province has greatly diminished since the famine by which the country was ravaged some time ago for several years in succession. The people have fallen into a state of apathy with regard to study and education, and it will require his most strenuous efforts to reawaken and stimulate them.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM YUNAN FOR YELLOW RIVER.

(2) The Viceroy and Governor of Yunnan report the receipt of Tls. 2,422, contributed in that province during the fifth and sixth months of this year for the repairs of the Yellow River embankment in Honan. These contributions have been given by persons desirous of procuring rank or titles, in accordance with the instructions recently issued on the subject. The donors are seventeen in number. Five of them wish to receive real official rank, one an honorary title, and eleven the degree of literary licentiate.

FAILURE OF CROPS IN SHANSI.

December 9th.—The Governor of Shansi reports that no less than twenty-one districts in his province are suffering from a deficiency in the harvest. The causes of the calamity vary much in the different districts. Chief of all is drought in the early summer. After this the heavy rains

in the latter part of the summer caused inundations. In some places, also, nothing could be sown, because the floods of last year still covered the ground. In others the crops were destroyed by hail, or the land had become impregnated with soda and rendered infertile. The Prefecture of Ta-t'ung Fu, immediately to the south of the Great Wall, together with portions of the adjacent prefectures, form the principal tract of country in which drought occurred. But isolated districts in other parts of the province are mentioned as having suffered in the same way. The destructive hail storms were not confined to any one portion of the province, but fell in various localities from the south to the extreme north. The worst floods were caused by the Fen River in the neighbourhood of the provincial capital. No villages were washed away, nor was there any loss of human life. Wherever the suffering is comparatively light, the district authorities will furnish relief as required from their local resources. Where it is more severe, corn will be issued from the government granaries. If these cannot supply sufficient food, the provincial treasury will be called upon to provide funds. The questions of remission of taxation or postponement of its collection will be made the subject of a careful enquiry. Injury has also been caused by hail to the crops in a portion of the country round Sui-yuan Ch'eng, close to the town of Kuei-hua Ch'eng on the Mongolian plateau. This will be dealt with by the Tartar General at Sui-yuan.—Approved by Rescript.

WITHDRAWAL OF AN OFFICIAL BECAUSE OF RELATIONSHIP.

December 10th.—According to a Memorial presented by the Governor of Hunan, there is at present in that province an expectant Taotai, Yun Yü-pin, who some time ago allowed his second son to be adopted as the child of one of his cousins. The said son was afterwards married to the daughter of one Chuang Keng-liang, who is also an expectant Taotai in Hunan, and who was stationed in the province at an earlier date than the young man's real father, Yun Yü-pin. According to the rules of the government service, if the young man had remained the son of Yun Yü-pin and had not been given in adoption to another person, it would undoubtedly be necessary that Yun Yü-pin should be transferred to another district. But as the rules were silent as to what should be done in cases where a son had been given away in adoption, the late Governor of the Province wrote to the Board of Civil Office at Peking and requested it to give a decision on the point. The Board replied that the rule still applied, and Yun Yü-pin should be transferred elsewhere. The Memorialist begs to represent that when he formerly was in charge of the province of Hunan, he was acquainted with Yun Yü-pin and found him an officer of unusual ability, whom he could entrust with the transaction of matters of difficulty. As he is now, on returning to Hunan, in great want of capable assistants, and as neither of the two officers holds a substantive appointment, he suggests that he should be allowed to retain Yun Yü-pin till Chuang Keng-liang, the senior of the two, obtains an actual post as Taotai. When that happens, Yun Yü-pin will necessarily be transferred.—Sanctioned.

DEGREES GRANTED TO AGED CANDIDATES.

December 11th.—A Memorial presented by the Governor of Shantung states that it is the custom for the Emperor, under certain circumstances, to grant the degree of Provincial Graduate to aged candidates who have been unsuccessful in the examination. The persons to whom this favour is accorded must be not less than eighty or ninety years of age, and must have presented themselves at the triennial examination not less than three times. Among the candidates who were examined this autumn

there were seven of the age of ninety and twelve of eighty years and more, all of whom have fulfilled the conditions mentioned above. The Memorialist, moreover, has had their essays examined, and finds them to be both lucid and coherent. He therefore requests that the Emperor will be pleased to confer the desired degree on these aged scholars.

The succeeding Memorial in the same *Gazette* is presented by the Governor of Yunnan, who states that at the recent examinations in that province there were two candidates over eighty years of age who had appeared before the examiners three times, and whose compositions were found to be meritorious. He therefore makes the same request on their behalf. The Emperor's Rescript orders both Memorials to be handed to the Board of Ceremonies for its report thereon.

ESCAPE OF A PRISONER FROM MONGOLIA.

December 12th.—(1) T'olunpu reports the disappearance of an officer who had been sent to serve on the post roads in Mongolia. The fugitive is a native of Kuangsi and was formerly a Captain in the army. But he was cashiered for some offence not stated and sent to serve at a post station. A description of his person has been forwarded to the high authorities of the neighbouring provinces of Chihli and Shansi, and to the Lieutenant-General at Jehu. It is further requested that the Governor of Kuangsi may be instructed to institute a search for the missing man to the neighbourhood of his home in that province.

TESTING THE CAPACITY OF A NEW OFFICIAL.

(2) The Governor of Shensi reports that in the early part of last summer there arrived in the province an officer named Ko Wei-k'un, who had been appointed in Peking to the post of Magistrate at Ho Hsien in Shensi. As the newcomer was not acquainted with local affairs, by the Emperor's permission he was retained for a short time under supervision at the provincial capital. The following month he was attached on probation to the local court of justice. There he has given great satisfaction both by the justice of his decisions and his attention to public business. It is therefore proposed to allow him without further delay to take up the post to which he was originally appointed.—Approved.

GUARDHOUSES AT WESTERN TOMES.

(3) At the end of last October the remains of the Lady Ch'eng apparently a secondary Consort of the Emperor Tao Kuang, were transported to the Western Tombs and placed temporarily in a hall attached to the Mausoleum of the late Empress of Tao Kuang. A detachment of twelve Tartar and twelve Chinese soldiers has been stationed at the Mausoleum as a guard of honour. It is requested that on account of the coldness of the weather two houses may be built on either side of the gateway for the accommodation of the guard, who have up to the present been encamped there in tents; also that an allowance of eight tael cents per day may be given to each officer and man. In making these requests the Memorialist are following a precedent set twenty years ago, when the coffin of another consort was temporarily placed in an apartment of the same Mausoleum.—Sanctioned.

AN APPEAL TO THE EMPEROR.

December 13th.—The Governor of Sheng-ching reports the hearing by himself of a case which had been made the subject of an appeal to the Emperor in person. The appellant, who was a person holding official rank, was by occupation a farmer, and lived in the district of Ning-yuan Chou. Last year the crops in that part of the country were below average, and the appellant therefore determined to make an attempt to obtain a reduction in the land-tax. With this object he lodged a complaint against the clerks of the local

land-tax department, accusing them of raising the rate of taxation in order to put money into their pockets. His complaint was carried to the Board of Revenue, who ordered it to be heard by the local authorities. Instead, however, of appearing before the local court to substantiate his charges, he went off to Peking and presented a petition to His Majesty the Emperor in person. According to the account of the case given by the Memorialist, Ning-yuan Chou contains about 450,000 *mu* of land assessed for taxation. Of this not quite one-half consists of private ground and the remainder of "relinquished" lands, probably land ceded by Bannermen to Chinese. According to rules formerly established, the private land was required to pay an annual tax of two and a half tael cents, and four and two-thirds pints of "granary" millet per *mu*; and the other lands paid three and a half pints of rice and nine and a third pints of beans, each of the kind that is sent to Peking. But in the country producing chiefly *kao-liang*, or sorghum, there was a difficulty in procuring the necessary quantity of millet and beans. The farmers, therefore, were allowed to pay their tax in money instead of in kind, the rate being annually fixed by the Magistrate according to the market price of the kinds of grain. But this gave dissatisfaction to the public on account of the constant variation in prices and rates of exchange; and complaints were lodged against the land-tax collectors, who were accused of raising the money value of the tax at their own pleasure. Therefore, in 1876, the late Tartar General Ch'ung-shih determined to do away at once with the cause of this grievance and also with the heavy charges made for conveying the grain to Peking. With this object he made a rule that in future every picul of millet due from the private lands should be commuted for thirty-six strings of cash (local currency), and the millet and beans from the relinquished lands for thirty strings of similar cash. This regulation was published and put in force and gave satisfaction down to the present day, when the attempt was made as above narrated to obtain an alteration in its terms. The appellant, on examination, acknowledged that this was the true state of the case. On the other hand the court which investigated his charges was satisfied that he had acted with a *bona fide* desire to secure a reduction in the amount of taxation, and that it was not his object to make false charges against any one. It is therefore proposed that he should not be condemned to any further punishment than that to which he is liable for stopping the Emperor's chair in order to present a petition. This penalty is one hundred blows with the bamboo, and penal servitude on a near frontier.—Referred to the Board of Punishments.

NEW WALLS FOR A TOWN NEAR MACAO.

Dec. 14th.—The Governor-General at Canton reports that a gentleman named Liu Yung-k'ang has offered with the assistance of his friends, to rebuild the walls of the town of Ch'ien-shan-chai close to Macao. Liu Yung-k'ang is a native of said town, living in retirement but holding the rank of expectant Taotai. The existing walls are more than half fallen down and the area enclosed is not sufficient for the present number of inhabitants. It is therefore proposed not only to build them anew, but to extend them so as to take in more ground. No demand will be made upon the Government for any part of the cost of the work.

The officers sent by the Memorialist to make enquiries about the proposed undertaking state that Ch'ien-shan-chai stands with a hill at the back of it on the north side; on the south and west it approaches the sea; and on the east is a high road running to Macao. The new walls will measure 5,020 feet in length, or 1,420 feet more than before. The height of the walls will be eleven feet instead of from five to

eight feet, except on the north side, where it will be ten feet. They will be made of concrete seven feet thick, on stone foundations, and will be surmounted by brick battlements three and a-half feet high. On the south and east there will be a ditch dug, twenty-six feet in width with banded sides. There will be 11.2 *mu* of taxable land covered by the walls, 6.5 *mu* absorbed by the ditch, and 37 *mu* taken into the city. Of this 3.9 *mu* belong to other families and will be bought and paid for by Liu Yung-k'ang. The land tax will be collected as before, and the ground enclosed in the town will continue to belong to its owners. The estimated cost of the whole undertaking is above Tls. 40,000, which will be entirely borne by Liu Yung-k'ang without even collecting contributions towards it. There appear to be no objections whatever to the scheme, which meets with the general approval of the people of the town. The Memorialist remarks that the town of Ch'ien-shan-chai was built in the reign of T'ien-ch'ü of the Ming dynasty (A.D. 1621-1627). It possesses naturally great strategic importance both as regards the sea and the land; and, as it is only three or four miles from Macao, existing circumstances give it even additional consequence at the present day. The Memorialist proposes to have a list made of the donations of money and land given by members of the Liu family, and when the work is completed to ask His Majesty to be pleased to bestow rewards on them, as well as upon Liu Yung-k'ang.

OFFICERS RETAINED AT CANTON FOR CONDUCT OF FOREIGN QUESTIONS.

December 15th.—The Viceroy at Canton asks for permission to retain on his staff two officers who have given him great satisfaction and assistance in dealing with foreign questions. The first, Lu Wei Ch'ü, was for a number of years Foreign Customs Deputy at Ichang, and is qualified from his intimate knowledge of international matters for acting with judgment and discrimination. Though he has been serving for two years at Canton he is still on the official list of the province of Hunan, where there is no foreign business whatever. To require him to return there would be wasting his talents in a sphere for which he is unsuited.

Ts'ai Kuo-chên, the second officer to whom the Viceroy's application refers, was formerly a Secretary in the Legation at Washington, whence he returned about two years ago. At the Viceroy's request he was temporarily retained at Canton, where his acquaintance with the Treaties, his knowledge of foreign matters, and his tact in discussing them, render him of much service in dealing with the complicated questions which continue to arise in greater number every year. Should this request be favourably entertained, both officers would be called upon to make good the fees payable on a transfer on promotion to another province.—Granted by Rescript.

REMITTANCES FROM CANTON TO PEKING.

The annual subsidy sent to Peking from all the provinces is Tls. 7,000,000, the distribution of which is arranged beforehand towards the end of every year by the Board of Revenue. Of the above amount the salt revenue at Canton was required to furnish Tls. 200,000 for the present year, and a further contribution of Tls. 50,000 was called for to meet the expenses of the Imperial Household. Tls. 190,000 of the total have already been forwarded, and the Viceroy now reports the transmission of the remainder. Tls. 60,000, which has been sent in bills drawn upon Shansi bankers. This has been supplemented by a remittance of Tls. 1,830 to cover portage, loss by exchange, and similar charges.

CUSTOMS DUTIES AT CANTON. REMITTANCES FROM THE HOPPO.

The Customs Revenue at Canton was assessed in the following sums as contributions during the present year to Peking—

Foreign Customs duties, Tls. 160,000 for the Peking subsidy; Tls. 120,000 from the six-tenths of the same duties for frontier defence on the North-east Tls. 6,000 a quarter for supplementing the salaries of Peking officials; Tls. 40,000 for allowances to the same officers; Tls. 120,000 from the four-tenths, and Tls. 200,000 from the six-tenths of the Foreign Customs receipt for frontier defence preparations, and Tls. 300,000 as the fixed annual appropriation for the Privy Purse of the Imperial Household Department.

The Viceroy and Hoppo report having remitted by bills the third instalments of the various assessments mentioned above.

CONDITION OF THINGS AT THE BREACH IN THE YELLOW RIVER.

December 16th.—About 8 p.m. on the 27th of November, Wu Ta-ch'ang received through the Viceroy Li Hung-chang a telegraphic message from the Taung-li Yamên stating that they had been commanded by Imperial Decree to inquire as to the present condition of the works going on at the breach in the Yellow River, and later in the same evening a telegram in reply was forwarded, to be submitted to His Majesty. The Director-General, in now forwarding a recorder of this telegram, asks permission to explain the reasons which have led him to abandon the construction of the diverting groin, which was to be run out from the embankment on the Western side of the breach. This work was started on the 26th of October, and it was the 7th of November before a firm foundation could be laid in the bottom of the river. A high wind which arose on the 31st October and lasted for several days caused such a scour of the face of the embankment that it took thirteen days to complete the first stage of the work. While the section was being pressed forward the danger increased to such an extent that the main embankment gave way in several places and fell down to the level of the water. On the 9th November, the position became so very serious that P'an Chün-wên and his entire staff had to use every exertion to safeguard the embankment by shoring it up at the sides. The insufficiency of the materials added greatly to the difficulty of the task, and after a general survey of the situation, both Memorialist and P'an Chün-wên decided that there was neither time nor materials to construct the diverting groin preparatory to restoring the main embankment, and that their whole energy should be devoted to the latter work. In all matters there is the established rule, and the expedient called forth by the varying circumstances of the case. The former is the rule to be adhered to on ordinary occasions, but when the circumstances alter a corresponding alteration must be made in the method of dealing with them. Though the course now followed by Memorialist is one adapted to the present condition of things yet it has met with much adverse criticism both from outsiders and persons connected with the work, who have all protested against the abandonment of the construction of the spit. The work on which nearly a hundred stacks of materials have been wasted, was originally undertaken at Memorialist's suggestion, and to abandon it before it was well commenced certainly lays him open to the charge of inconsistency. Still after much reflection he feels that an obstinate adherence to his former proposal would entail much further waste of materials, and afford no guarantee that the breach would be closed in proper time. He, therefore, disregarded the general opinion and decided to abandon the construction of the spit, and devote his whole attention to the closing of the breach. In this course of action he has been supported by Ni Wen-wei, whom he consulted on the subject. The work on the western embankment was accordingly recommenced on the 16th of November, and on the eastern on the 27th of November, and two sections, one of each side, have

been already completed. As the opening becomes narrower, the scour increases and renders the prosecution of the task exceedingly difficult. The breach is now thirty-two *chang* in width, and as it is necessary, on account of the violence of the current to proceed by shorter stages, it is proposed to divide the remainder of the work into seven sections, three on the eastern side and four on the western. As soon as two more sections have been completed, it will be imperative to have no stoppage either by night or by day until the whole remaining portion is closed by one sustained effort. Memorialist is determined to secure the stability of the work as it goes along, and not to risk the chance of scumpling it by unduly hastening its progress. Only forty days remain until the *hsia-han* period (6th January), and as regards time, the situation is very urgent. Fortunately, however, the water is comparatively low and manageable, and it is important that every effort should be made to complete the work while there is still no ice on the river. The collection of the materials will cause great difficulty, eight new depôts were recently opened for their purchase, and received up to the 28th November last a total of 224 stacks. The total amount in stock is 1,580 stacks to which, it is estimated, that 2,000 stacks will be added by the end of the 11th moon. This would be quite sufficient for the purpose, but there is, of course, a possibility of rain, snow or bad weather or other unforeseen circumstances impeding the arrival of the carts and thus causing disappointment. The subject engages Memorialist's earnest attention both night and day, and it is with fear and trepidation that he harbours the dread of failing to requite the Imperial kindness. He hopes, however, to have the work completed in due time, and thus relieve the constant anxiety felt by the Court.

Meetings.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

At the Meeting of the Council held in the Board Room, No. 23, Kiangse Road, Shanghai, on Saturday, the 29th December, 1888, at 4 o'clock p.m.

Present:—Messrs. A. G. Wood (Chairman), Yeend Duer, G. J. Morrison, C. Overbeck, E. Wheeler and the Secretary.

The Minutes of the last meeting are read, confirmed, signed by the Chairman and passed for publication.

Cash Statement for the past week is submitted, and cheques for sundry accounts are signed.

North Honan Road.—The following letter is submitted:—

H. B. M.'s Consulate-General,
Shanghai, 27th December, 1888.

SIR,—I have the honour to hand you a translation of a letter from the Taotai relating to the arrangements which Mr. Ching Chong has been instructed to make with the Council for the lighting and draining of the locality known as the North Honan Road.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. HUGHES,
H. B. M.'s Consul-General
and Senior Consul.

To A. G. Wood, Esq.,
Chairman Municipal Council,
Shanghai.

KUNG Taotai to Consul-General HUGHES.
Dec. 21st, 1888 (K. Hs. XIV. 11.19.)

SIR,—I have the honour to refer to your letter requesting me to desire Mr. Y. Ching-chong to come and consult with the Municipal Council, as Mr. Wood, the Chairman of that Body had informed you at a personal interview that they fully concurred in the desirability of co-operation with Mr. Ching-chong in improvements in the Honan road draining and lighting. I have already acknowledged

the receipt of that letter and have sent him instructions in the sense desired by you.

As the locality concerned, that of the old Railway road and the Tien How Kung Temple, is one where the foreign settlement is coterminous with native Chinese houses and roads beyond its limits, it is very important that such arrangements should be concluded with the Municipal Council, as may ensure mutual satisfaction in all regards. I have directed the attention of Mr. Ching-chong to this in the instructions which I have sent to him, and shall be obliged if you will be so good as to invite the Municipal Council to place themselves in communication with him to discuss the objects they have in view.

I have, etc.,

(Card of Kung Taotai) Translated by

(Sgd.) M. F. A. FRASER.

Note.—In the above Mr. Ching-chong is incidentally referred to as holding the rank of a sub-prefect.

Distress in Kiangsu and Anhui.—The following letter is read and ordered to be published:—

H. B. M.'s Consulate General,
Shanghai, 28th December, 1888.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose nineteen copies of a Proclamation issued by His Excellency the Viceroy Tséng, calling for subscriptions from Chinese for the relief of the distressed districts in Kiangsu and Anhui.

At the request of the Mixed Court Magistrate I have countersigned these documents, and I beg you will kindly direct the Municipal Police to have them posted in conspicuous places throughout the Settlement.

I enclose for your information translation of the Proclamation.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. HUGHES,

H. B. M.'s Consul-General.

To A. G. Wood, Esq.,
Chairman Municipal Council,
Shanghai.

(Translation.)

Proclamation by His Excellency Tséng, Hereditary Noble of the Third Rank (Earl), Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent, a President of the Board of War, an Official of the First Rank, Viceroy of the Liang-kiang Provinces (Kiangsu, Anhui and Kiang-si.)

An Earnest Proclamation.—Whereas during the present year, in the Provinces of Kiangsu and Anhui, while the high lands have been parched with drought, the low lands bordering on the Yellow River have been deluged, causing dearth and desolation of which the description is painful to hear, and the sight painful to look upon; and whereas I, the Viceroy, having memorialised the Throne, have been favoured with a special gracious permission to detain the tribute rice going to the Capital by the way of River transport, and have also received instructions from the Board of Revenue that there will be awarded official honours and distinctions in recompense of money privately subscribed, consisting in official titles, degrees of Student of the Imperial Academy and of Honorary Licentiate, and the decoration of the Peacock's Feather, to animate others to these patriotic sacrifices,—an Imperial boon which has been met with the unanimous and heartfelt acclamations of officials and people,—whereas the distressed districts in Kiangsu and Anhui extend nearly one thousand li, over an area which it is hopeless to reach with the 10,000 piculs of tribute rice North of the Yangtze, while the cry of misery grows louder as the coldest winter weather hastens on apace. Now therefore I, the Viceroy, after the most careful reflection, convinced that the only thing to be done is to spread far and wide the exhortation to private charity to supplement the insufficiency of the public grant, do hereby by this earnest Proclamation entreat all rich persons, all gentry, all soldiers and people, to bear in mind the old sayings that "on the house of the charitable a hundred blessings shall descend," and "he that doeth well, he shall have happiness." Oh! Ye who have wealth and high position, and who, with hearts full of compassion, use to delight in benevolent and noble deeds, be ye sure that long has Heaven, who sees us all, looked down on you with approval! Well did ye respond to the cry for help from distant

Shansi, Honan, Shantung and Chihli. How liberally your subscriptions poured in, and how many were the lives that you saved! The misery is now nearer to us, and more pressing. I look, therefore, with all the more confidence, to your coming forward, with emulous ardour, stirred by the noble enthusiasm of charity, to contribute what you can to help to the comfort of a warm bed all those unfortunates who without such help must die of hunger in a ditch. I call upon you on your part to do all you can to second the gracious benevolence of His Majesty the Emperor, who imitates Heaven in his desire that the people may live and not die! I look to you with full confidence; and I do hereby proclaim to all, that official rewards and distinctions will be awarded, in accordance with Regulations, for all money contributed, and that in the case of all contributions of extra magnitude, a Memorial will be immediately presented applying for extraordinary recognition; so that all may be stimulated to do likewise by the public announcement of your rewards. Let all therefore put forward their best endeavours, and let there be no watching of each other and waiting to begin!—An urgent and special Proclamation.

For universal notification. Kwang-sü XIV year, 10th moon, 26th day, (29th November, 1888).

(Official Seal of the Viceroy of the Two Kiang Provinces.)

Translated by M. F. A. Fraser.

Decided to post the proclamations as requested.

Foochow Road Widening.—Letter from Messrs. D. Sassoon, Sons & Co. is read, offering to surrender for the sum of Tls. 588 a small strip of Lot 26A for the purpose of completing the side walk in the Foochow Road between the Honan and Kiangse Roads.

Decided to accept this offer.

Margaret Williamson Memorial Hospital.—The following correspondence is ordered to be published:—

Shanghai, November 1888.

SIR,—We take the liberty of handing you herewith a copy of the recently published report of the "Margaret Williamson Memorial Hospital," which will show you the nature and character of the work being done by that benevolent institution. Though its funds are sufficient to render it independent of external assistance if continued on its present limited scale, we are so well satisfied of the desirability of enlarging its accommodation to enable it to extend its benefits to the constantly increasing applicants for relief, that we venture to bring the subject to your notice, and to express the hope that your Council will contribute your aid to the end by making provision in the next Municipal Budget for a donation proportionate to that granted to other charitable institutions here. Or, if this cannot be done, that the Council will support a resolution at the next ratepayers meeting to authorize such an allowance. The Hospital is well and favourably known among the Chinese residents, and we feel certain that they especially would cheerfully approve of such a use of the public funds to which they so largely contribute.

We have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

A. C. WETMORE,
M. DRUMMOND,
M. OVERBECK,
M. BUCHANAN,
A. Y. SEAMAN,
ALICE WESTALL,
L. D. NICKELS,
H. BRAND,
M. M. HUGHES,
E. M. BELL,

Hon. Sec.

A. G. Wood, Esq.,
Chairman of the Municipal
Council, Shanghai.

Advisory Committee of
the "Margaret Williamson
Memorial Hospital."

Shanghai, 31st December, 1888.

MADAM,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter handing me a copy of the recently published report of the Margaret Williamson Memorial Hospital, and asking the Council to make provision in next year's budget for a donation to it, in order to enable you to enlarge its accommodation,

I have the honour to be,
Madam,
Your obedient servant,
A. G. Wood,
Chairman.

RETURN OF ANIMALS KEPT AT THE NATIVE DARDERS,
Shanghai, 5th January, 1889.

Locality of Dairy	No.	No.
Ha-Jin (New Seward Road)	No. 1	No. 3
Broadway No. 2	No. 2	No. 4
" " "	No. 3	No. 5
Lee Honkew	No. 4	No. 6
Wooning Road	No. 5	No. 7
Shima Village	No. 6	No. 8
" " "	No. 7	No. 9
" " "	No. 8	No. 10
Chadon Dairy	No. 9	No. 11
Chang Young Sing	No. 10	No. 12
Men-sung and Sung-lee	No. 11	No. 13
Shin-sung	No. 12	No. 14
Lee Hui-mei (Aiping)	No. 13	No. 15
Two-way's (Lung-feng)	No. 14	No. 16
" " and Lung-feng	No. 15	No. 17
Zee Luther	No. 16	No. 18
" " "	No. 17	No. 19
Smith of Pish-sen-chi	No. 18	No. 20
Woo and Tong-ching	No. 19	No. 21
Sik Choo and Jong-choo	No. 20	No. 22
Sung-cho and Tong-choo	No. 21	No. 23
Louisa bridge and St. Georges Farm	No. 22	No. 24
Total	No. 23	No. 25

The CHAIRMAN said that he had gone through the business of the year so recently that it was hardly necessary to go over it

The CHAIRMAN next read the names of a number of gentlemen who had formerly served in the Company, who were desirous of being elected Hon. members of the Company, amongst whom were Major Morrison, Messrs. Jas. Buchanan, P. Macgregor Grant and F. Huchting, all of whom were unanimously elected.

effectively.

such a happy selection for the occasion as usual. Mr. J. Stern was overweighed by Weber's *Rondo Brillante* Op. 62, which he next undertook on the piano, and the concert closed with a magnificent rendering by Mr. Franks, accompanied by Mr. Grimbale, of Fred. Clay's beautiful song, "I'll sing thee songs of Araby." Mr. Franks was in splendid voice, and a longer acquaintance with his audience has taken away the nervousness from which he has suffered on previous occasions. His singing was a real treat, and he had to repeat the second verse.

This finished a really capital programme, and after a vote of thanks to the Secretary and the performers had been proposed by General Kennedy and heartily carried, the audience shortly before midnight, melted away in the cold night. The great success of the evening was to some extent unexpected, but the feeling that it was one of the best concerts ever given here was unanimous.

THE SCANDINAVIAN NEW YEAR'S FEAST.

Perhaps the most striking of our local yule tide celebrations is that of the Scandinavian portion of our Community, who annually gather at the festive board to make the merry season one of national rejoicing, according to the time honoured custom of the Norse Kingdoms. This year they assembled on New Year's eve in the handsome and commodious *salle* of the Masonic Hall, which underwent a pleasant transformation for the occasion, being profusely decorated with seasonable shrubs and evergreens, while a number of characteristic sketches in oils and water-colours, painted for the occasion, mostly by Mr. O. Nielsen, hung round the walls. The gathering numbered between seventy and eighty, fifteen of whom were ladies, from Sweden and Norway, Mr. Carl Bock, wearing the decorations of the Order of Commodore of the Emperor Franz-Joseph, and of St. Olav, presided at the head of the table, while the other end was held by Mr. J. Henningsen, manager of the Great Northern Telegraph Company, who were amongst others the decoration of the Double Dragon. The hosts and their guests marched in double files to their places to the music of Lohengrin excellently played on the organ by Mme. Petersen. The menu which was most ample, and sufficient to delight a gourmet having been done full justice to, the pleasant hour over the walnuts and wine supervened, and the toasting appropriate to the occasion began. The first toast was naturally the rulers of the Northern Kingdoms, Sweden and Norway, and Denmark proposed by Mr. Carl Bock, in appropriate and eloquent terms, and honoured with full bumpers amidst cheers, three times three, as is the Norse custom. The proposal of the healths of the Scandinavian ladies fell to the lot of Mr. Henningsen, while their present merry meeting and their next were suitably proposed by Captain Minter, and then the continued prosperity of the Three Kingdoms was given by Mr. Froberg, and was deeply and enthusiastically honoured. After several songs, a very striking feature was introduced into the entertainment by Mr. O. Nielsen dressed as the Wandering Jew, who read a most happily worded prologue, after which a very humorous little lithographed paper printed for the occasion was distributed amongst the guests. The letterpress, we believe, of this curious little journal was mostly from the pen of Mr. Henningsen, while the sketches were contributed by the Wandering Jew himself. Amongst the amusing skits of which it was composed, one, brimful of fun, a parody on the famous *Primus chloride of lime* case, afforded great

amusement, which was fully shared in by the learned assessor on that occasion, who occupied the head of the festive board. The last moments of the old year were not far off when the assembly adjourned to the small hall which had been tastefully arranged as a *cafe Scandinavie* or *Palais Mastodonique* with a miniature stage at one end, while numerous small tables filled the body of the room, around which the hosts and their guests assembled in knots and the wassail bowl was served, piping hot, by three gentlemen in the garb of waiters who wielded their ladles with astonishing vigour and kept the glasses well primed till the small hours. A long and interesting programme, consisting of three parts was gone through. In the first part the numbers most enjoyed were Mde. Petersen's overture of "L'Onze Montagne" on the piano, and Messrs. Sonne and Froberg's duet "Gluntarne," accompanied by Mde. Sonne. The second part of the programme consisted of a clever legerdemain performance by Mr. H. Meier. Several sweet Swedish songs were contributed in the third part of the programme, and afforded great pleasure to the audience, Messrs. Sonne and Froberg in "Gluntarne," and Mr. Petersen in "Per og Maren," Soldatersang, being perhaps the most applauded, while Mr. Bille's topical ditty, entitled "Shanghai's Kaleidoscope," was very happy in its allusions. Mr. Fritz's recitation, composed by himself, was one of the best features of the evening and Mr. Froberg's violin solo of the unpronounceable "Dalkarlemelodier" was a very enjoyable and artistic contribution. After the musical programme had been exhausted the tables were cleared away, and some enthusiastic votaries of the dance, despite the lateness of the hour, took their places, and the early hours were wiled away with many merry country dances and more fashionable waltzes. It was far into the new year when the *comte de Messis*, Carl Bock, J. Henningsen, Wm. Carlson, E. G. Schiller, Olaf Nielsen, and M. Foijn terminated, after one of the most successful night campaigns of the season.

S. V. C.

No. 1 Co. monthly cup competition was shot for on Saturday morning. The weather was bitterly cold, and a keen strong wind blowing made good shooting very difficult. There were 5 competitors, Priv. Allen and Serg. Smith tied with totals of 51 each, but the former making the best score at the longer range wins the cup for the second time.

	200 yds.	500 yds.	Tl.
Priv. Allen	531344-23	3545533-28	61
Serg. Smith	3473443-24	4555243-27	51
Priv. Jensen	4444442-26	2204252-17	43
Lieut. Sharp	0203144-17	4342120-17	34
Priv. Bowring	0000325-10	6324020-11	21

Correspondence.

LETTER FROM HONAN ON RELIEF WORK.

MY DEAR MR. MUIRHEAD.—At present the work of distributing relief to the distressed is in full swing. After making a careful investigation of the whole district from the breach to Chao-kia-k'eo, it was found that Fu-keo was in the greatest need. We therefore decided to make that city a centre and supply its neighbourhood in the best and most systematic way possible. Messrs. Johnston and Mills are there with two good native assistants and we hope with God's help and blessing they will be able to relieve to a certain extent the distress which prevails there. They will have to cope with many difficulties, and the distribution will be much more difficult than here. Fu-keo is a small city compared with this and its cash shops do not

issue cash notes, so distribution cannot be made with the same facility as here. However, it is said that the cash shops will not be able to cash large amounts, and to chop up the silver would not be altogether satisfactory, since it is almost impossible to make two pieces alike, and jealousy would be excited in the breasts of the recipients. It has been suggested therefore that they make a friendly call upon the Magistrate and ask him to assist them by lending two underlings, and by allowing them to distribute money in a neighbouring temple or place wherever he might appoint. That they then go to the various villages and distribute foreign tickets, fixing a day for the distribution of cash and informing the villagers where it will take place. The underlings will help to keep order upon the auspicious day and prevent a rush upon the distributors for cash. We hope this plan will work. Probably the merchants may be able to exchange a certain amount of silver, if the cash shops have not sufficient to meet the need.

We have decided to continue giving relief to the poor in the villages around Chao-kia-k'eo, but to do nothing in the city itself. At present four, including Mr. Lund, are out distributing. I was out myself on Tuesday, and yesterday two villagers called and begged me to go to their village where there was real distress, so I complied with their request and went to-day.

Thus you will see everyone who can possibly go is engaged in the work.

This morning I started off with the two villagers and a Christian helper for the village in question. A very thick mist enveloped the country, making it impossible to see two yards away. We took a boat, and after travelling 6 or 7 li reached a wide expanse of water which—in the mist—looked boundless. We went on and on until the boatmen and villagers lost their bearings, but arrived at a village, not the one we were seeking, though one in great distress. I went ashore and found every family in the most indigent circumstances. The village was in ruins, the poor and aged villagers were making the best of their very poor lot by taking refuge in the part of their houses which was still standing. Their all consisted of a small fire-place and cooking pan, a small pallet upon the floor with a very thin coverlet to form their bed. I relieved every family, and then went to an adjoining village where I found a similar condition of affairs. The day was passing away, and after leaving the second village we made direct for the object of our search. The mist which was as dense as ever, made navigation exceeding difficult, and after polling the boat for some distance we found ourselves at the limit of a vast expanse of mud. Over this the boat was forced by means of poles and by pushing. This was not my first overland journey in a boat; on Tuesday last in several places we were taken from village to village in a boat pushed along by 7 or 8 men who waded in the deep mud which reached to their knees. Our boatmen, losing their way, shouted to see if they were nearing their village, and after a time our anxiety was relieved by a shout in reply. Then our boat was turned in the direction of the voice, and after a slow and difficult propulsion over the mud we reached water again, and eventually the villages for which we were bound.

The villagers had not deceived us. Some of the people were poor indeed and subsisted upon the coarsest food imaginable. I saw one man eating something much worse in appearance and quality than the meal-fare given to caged blackbirds at home. We found, however, that a good number had returned home from the Fan-chang because they heard that we were going to give relief. I feel I must give them something as the meagre fare given by the authorities is far from fattening, and their homes, if they can be called such, were indescribably poor,

In answer to my question why they did not go to the Fan-ch'ang I learned that many who were there last year unfortunately sold their tickets which entitled them to government support, viz., a certain quantity of grain per mensem during the summer and a Fan-ch'ang existence during the winter. Many thought that the breach would be closed this year and as there would be probably no more relief given they sold their tickets for two three or four thousand cash. Their cash is spent and they are minus the passport to a Fan-ch'ang.

I relieved 8 villages and over 100 families to-day.

Many more have come to the Fan-ch'ang, and new ones have been made. It is reported that there are in all about 10,000 tents, and from 50 to 60,000 people in daily receipt of government food at a cost of about Tls. 1,000 per diem. I hear that a charge of 1,000 cash is made by the underlings to procure admittance, but cannot say whether that charge is made upon all or only upon new comers.

I am glad to say that whilst those villages I visited to-day were distressingly poor, there are many others in this neighbourhood which I have recently visited in a very different condition. There is plenty of room, nevertheless, for shewing much needed charity, and we shall have no difficulty in using all that has been contributed.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

J. J. COULTHERD.

Cheo-kia-k'eo, 20th December.

THE FAMINE IN KIANGSU AND ANHUI.

The following letter has been received from a kind-hearted correspondent:—A very great number of places in Anhui and Kiangsu are suffering from famine this year. The greatest distress is in the three prefectures of Ying-chow, Shou-chow, and Lü-chow in Anhui, and in the three prefectures of Ch'ang-chow, Chinkiang and Yangchow in Kiangsu. In Anhui the distress is caused by floods and in Kiangsu by drought; I have myself visited these places and have been an eye-witness of the state of affairs. It is needless to describe the condition of rags and misery to be found there. People are either at their last gasp, lying about the roads at the point of death, or they remain with empty stomachs weeping bitterly in their houses. These distressing circumstances are most painful to hear and to see. Now that winter is approaching with snow and wind of unusual severity, the state of affairs will be worse than one can imagine. In the district of Ho-fei in Lü-chow alone there are 300,000 families in extreme poverty. In Ying-chow and Shou Chou, then has been drought for two years and the whole population of the country is in a condition of famine.

Within the limits of the district of Tan-tu, Chinkiang, over an area of 200 li, not a grain of rice has been harvested. In the districts of I Ch'eng and Kan chüan in Yangchow scarce a blade of grass is to be found. In the districts of Kiang yin and Ching chi in Ch'ang chou-fu, there is nothing but weeds to be seen on the high lands, and among the hills at Ching chi, more than 100,000 refugees from other places are groaning and crying out for food.

Alas! It is terrible to think that there is no means of saving the lives of these millions of people. The Viceroy of the Two Kiang, Ts'eng, has done his utmost to get subscriptions; the Taoists and other officials under his jurisdiction have followed his example in commiserating the suffering of the people and have besides joined with a number of Chinese and foreign gentlemen in inviting benevolent people of all countries to open their purse strings and give their help. At such a time when all the sources of charity seemed to have

been exhausted, I think that a great undertaking of this sort should give new hope to the afflicted ones.—Hupao.

DISTRESS IN SHANTUNG.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Your readers are already aware that owing to the failure of the crops this year there is a famine impending throughout a large portion of Shantung. Although the public have already most liberally subscribed towards the relief of the people in other places, we are constrained by the necessities of the case to bring this district specially before them.

The people have for some time been living on the seeds of weeds, chaff, and bran, while in the country of Shou Kuang and elsewhere they are cutting off the green sprouts of the spring corn, and are eating them. This is of course but a temporary expedient for preserving life, and the distress must considerably increase as the winter advances, so that unless substantial help from outside be forthcoming many of the people must die of starvation. In some counties where the distress is keenest, the officials have issued proclamations forbidding the transportation of grain to other countries, but this protective policy has not prevented famine prices prevailing. In our district, the officials are doing nothing beyond this to in any way meet the distress. The present calamity is intensified by the fact that in some places only half an average crop has been gathered for several years past.

The following table of the prices grain is now fetching in I Tu Hsien, a county where the distress is perhaps least severe, will show the urgency of the matter:—

Average Prices.	Present Prices.
Mill t. .80 small cash per tou.	1,400 small cash per tou.
Beans . . . 500	" " 1,300
Kao Liang 500	" " 1,000
Rice . . . 600	" " 1,400
Wheat . . . 800	" " 1,200

Wheat has not risen as much as the other grains, because it is hoped that a satisfactory harvest may be gathered in the spring, but this wheat crop, however plentiful or scarce it may prove, cannot be reaped for another five months, and prices have already reached the above figures, and are steadily going up.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will be glad to receive subscriptions on behalf of the relief fund, and it is hardly necessary to add that full reports will, from time to time, be sent to the press, giving details as to the distribution of such monies as we may receive.

Yours truly,

J. S. WHITEWRIGHT.

SAMUEL COULING.

R. C. FORSYTH.

FRANCIS H. JAMES.

C. SPURGEON MEDHEURST.

J. PERCY BRUCE, B.A.

ED. S. NICKALLS.

J. RUSSELL WATSON, M.B.

English Baptist Mission,
TSING CHEN FU, Shantung.
22nd Dec. 1888.

CHINA'S PHILANTHROPIES.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Yesterday I enjoyed the privilege of going all through the large establishment inside the West gate of the native city known as the 普善堂 Pu-yu-t'ang, a congeries of charities under one management. Upon going these once before alone I was allowed to see a very little in the few moments given me by the gate keeper, but again when attempting to visit the place with another foreigner we were peremptorily refused admission.

Yesterday, however, a friend who knew the superintendent in charge took me, and

I had no difficulty in securing an escort over the whole extensive place. The Institution has not been in existence yet thirty years. Its income is eighteen thousand taels a year. Fifty dollars a day are spent on running expenses. The number of inmates are over five hundred. The schools and shops where boys and young men are taught interested me exceedingly. A dozen blind boys are taught the fortune-telling business. Their teachers are paid by the Institution. A young man sat beside a table reciting in detached sentences the passages used in fortune telling and a couple of younger ones were repeating it after him. They went on oblivious of my guide and self, and the few curious followers who also stood at the door with us. The other pupils were out. It set me to thinking over the plans which we are trying to bring to perfection relating to the instruction of the Blind. All assure me that the people of China will aid any practical method of relieving the worthy Blind.

This was the first time that I had seen or heard of a school for teaching the fortune telling profession at public expense. I much wish that the blind were taught some industries in this place, such as the massage taught in the school for the blind in Japan, or basket-making and the like taught them in Europe and America. The idea of giving them something to do by which to earn their support is a good one and I commend it most heartily. If some easily learned trade were taught such as the caning of chair seats, the making of venetian blinds, baskets and the like it would be very desirable. I most earnestly commend the trial of teaching one or two simple trades.

Two free schools of about thirty pupils, twenty of whom live on the place, occupy rooms close by the quarters of the blind youth.

The type cutting department was upstairs in one of the buildings, and there were found about twenty apprentices working away in the usual manner of cutting Chinese characters on wooden blocks. A tailoring establishment adjoined it where only a few boys were at work. Barbering gives employment to several master barbers and a good many of the orphans in the compound.

The old men were many of them making small ropes, but with no expense or trouble to the Institution, as it is their own voluntary matter and needs no master workman. Six doctors have the care of the diseased, deformed and defective of every sort. A long chapter could be written on that important feature of the place. The confinement of many idiotic and insane men in a few rooms made me wish that China had a reformed method of treating its insane. T. M. Gallandet who introduced the instruction of the Deaf into the United States also turned his attention to the condition of the insane. I do not consider the methods in vogue in the West as models by any means, and so I content myself just here with expressing the strong desire that the subject of China's insane and imbecile classes be taken into serious consideration.

J. CROSSETT.

1st Jan., 1889.

THE TEA TRADE.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—More than a year having elapsed since the Chinese Authorities asked and obtained advice from Foreigners in China in connection with the decline of their Tea Trade,—advice which they have not attempted to follow, it may be interesting to draw attention to the continued decline of the trade.

The Export of Black Tea from all China to Great Britain during the current season (1888 × 1889) is reduced to 92,450,000 lbs., against 108,900,000 lbs., last season

(1887 × 1888) and 134,500,000 lbs. in season 1886 × 1887, a reduction of over 30 per cent. in two years.

It has been remarked by some that the Export to Russia shows a large increase, but this is hardly accurate. The Export of Black and Brick Tea to Russia and Russian Manchuria from the Northern Tea Ports for the current season (1888 × 1889) amounts to 55,600,000 lbs., against 52,700,000 lbs., last season (1887 × 1888) and 50,430,000 lbs., in season 1886 × 1887; the increase in the two years being only 5,170,000 lbs., while to Great Britain, as above mentioned, the decrease is 42,000,000 lbs.

The Teas of this season were on the whole carefully prepared and of satisfactory quality; but while the Chinese are so kind as to continue to protect the Indian Tea Trade by burdening their own produce with heavy taxes (on common Teas, over 50 per cent of the total value) they cannot be surprised at the decline of their trade, and at the corresponding success of their untaxed rivals.

My figures are taken from the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce Circular of 4th inst.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

CHASSEZ

9th Jan.

THE HONGKEW COFFEE AND READING ROOMS.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Would you kindly allow me a little space in your valuable paper anent the Hongkew Coffee and Reading Rooms? A correspondent writing to the *Mercury* states what a boon it would be if the above establishment were opened at 6.30 a.m. to be enabled to obtain a cup of coffee. I am able to refute his statement in toto, as every morning since last August I have called in and obtained a cup of coffee at 6.15 a.m. and I have also met Blue jackets there at the same time obtaining like refreshments.

The manager has always shewn the utmost courtesy to all visitors.—If F. M. R. would only take the trouble to look, he would see hanging on the wall a gilt framed address presented to Mr. Rudland by 25 seamen of H.B.M.S. *Cordelia* for his unremitting attention to their comfort whilst ashore and cordially recommending other ship's companies to the establishment.

If any party would like to make any enquiries concerning the Hongkew Reading Rooms, or the manager, I and other friends will be most happy to give all information in our power. The Reading Rooms is a great boon to more people than Blue jackets, as a glance at the visitors' book will testify.

Hoping, Sir, you will excuse me for trespassing on your space,

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. E. EDDOWES.

9th January.

Poetry.

FREEDOM.

(Child loq.)

Oh! tell me mother, I long to know
Where doth the tree of Freedom grow?
And strike its roots in the heart of man
As deep, and far, as the famed banyan.
Is it to be found in the Southern seas.
In the coral isles, or the Far Fijis,
Where the stormy billows, heave and toss
In the starry light of the Southern Cross?
(Mater loq.) Not there, not there my child.

(Child loq.)

Is it to be found on the Northern sea,
Where the Nor'-west wind blows cold, and free?

Or is it found as even' shades
Steal o'er as in the South east Trades?
Or is it found at early dawn
About the regions of Cape Horn?
Or perhaps it's found at midday (noon)
On China's coast in the dread typhoon?
(Mater loq.) Not there, not there, my child.

(Child loq.)

Is it found beneath an Austral Sky,
Or in lands were birds of Paradise fly?
Where every thing is bright and fair,
Oh! say, dear mother, is it found there?
Is freedom found in climates mild,
Or again on the Western Prairies wild,
Where rapine, and murder, walk hand in hand

And cruel Judge Lynch is in command?
(Mater loq.) Not there, not there, my child.

(Child loq.)

Is Freedom found in the Ducal Hall,
The Hermits' cell or the Kaffir Kraal?
Is it found in the land of the Pondomese,
Where the men remain at home at ease,
And send their wives at early dawn,
Into the fields to sow the corn?
Or pr'haps 'tis found in Zululand
'Midst native scenery wild and grand,
(Mater loq.) Not there, not there, my child.

(Mater loq.)

Know this our only Freedom lies
Far above the bright blue skies,
Far way in realms of light,
Where saints are clothed in spotless white
Where wars, and tumults are unknown
By those who stand around God's throne
Among the pure, and undefiled
There Freedom stands, my child, my child.

REGINALD THORNTON SHUTTE.

Miscellaneous.

PACIFIC RUSSIA.

HER STRONGHOLD IN TARTARY.—VLADIVOSTOK AND ITS INHABITANTS.—AN ENGLISH JOURNALIST AND A MUSCOVITE FLAG.

The Russian Government and the geographical situation of Russian Tartary have succeeded between them in keeping this place well out of the world, and ten thousand miles nearer to it in body bring you little or no nearer to it in knowledge. "Going to Vladivostok? Dear me!" people said just as naturally at Nagasaki, a hundred yards from the vessel which was getting up steam to go there, as they did in London on the other side of the world. But the journey is easy enough to make. From Yokohama, the *Yokohama Maru*, one of the magnificent steamers of the great Japanese steamship line, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, takes you southward along the coast to Kobe, the pleasantest foreign settlement in Japan; then to Shimonoseki, famous for its foreign bombardment in 1863; then through the Inland Sea, ranking high among the "show scenery" of the East; drops you at Nagasaki, and forty-eight hours later it is in Shanghai. From Yokohama to Nagasaki is 692 miles; from Nagasaki to Vladivostok is 659 more, and the big *Takachiho Maru* is lying at anchor, waiting to bear you northwards. Of the voyage I have dismissed in have a dozen lines, and of the Steamship Company—the finest example of Japanese commercial enterprise—which spans this part of the East like a spider's web, there is much to say, but I have bigger game before me for the moment. At noon next day the *Takachiho* steams out into the Korean Straits; during the night she passes Port Hamilton a long way off, those bare islands of which the world talked for a year; and about which, too, opinions are as divided here as at home, the truth probably being that England did very well both to take them and to give

them up; and, on the following afternoon, she drops anchor at Fusan, the treaty port and Japanese Settlement on the South Coast of Corea. Then come a revelation of head-gear among the white-robed Koreans, a chat with the Commissioner of Customs (in the Chinese service, by the way), and an afternoon with a hammerless companion, resulting in three brace of pheasants, a snipe, and a small deer; and off again. For twenty-four hours we steam along a rocky, desolate, and forbidding coast, and next morning the anchor drops again in the splendid harbour of Gensan, the Western Treaty Port, alongside the big white French ironclad, the flagship *Turenne*. Soon a smart petty officer comes up the gangway, bearing a courteous invitation to Capt. Walker and myself to dine with "M. le Contre-Amiral Layrie, commandant en chef la division navale de l'extrême Orient," and that night on board the *Turenne* a dozen merry guests, all very far from home, the flashing of many wax candles over silver plate and glittering glass, the skill of a decorated French cook, the witchery of rare old Burgundy, and the strains of Offenbach and Suppé all combine to dispel the thought that we are lying off the uninhabited Port Lazareff, in the wild and lonely seas of the Hermit Land. But at midnight the anchor is heaved again, and at daylight next day but one, the helm is suddenly put over to starboard, the man in the chains takes up his monotonous cry, and we sweep round into the harbour of Vladivostok—the proudly named "Possession of the East."

An old-fashioned theologian would say that Providence had intended this place to be made impregnable. The harbour is shaped, speaking roughly, like a plain letter L standing on its head, thus: "L". It has two entrances, one at the southeast corner, the other in the middle of the west side, both narrow deep-water channels, the latter indeed being only a few hundred feet wide. As we steam straight north up the long leg of the "L" we notice first an extensive beach on the right, then several large bays open out in succession, and we pass through a narrow opening between Capes Novosilsky and Nazimoff and leave the western entrance on the left. The hills around are densely wooded and all the defences visible so far have been extensive earth-works building on our right, and loads of bricks for them lying on the shores below. Now, however, as the ship passes Cape Goldobin we discover a large two-storied battery from which nine black muzzles look down on us. What may be behind the earthworks of the upper story you cannot tell, but the guns below are not very terrible, being visibly only 9-inch muzzle loaders mounted upon obsolete iron carriages. They might, of course, make it very hot for a ship in the harbour with their plunging fire at short range, but I take it for granted already that Vladivostok is defended by altogether different weapons, however dreadful these may look to the captains of peaceful merchant vessels. Soon after passing Fort Goldobin, a sharp turn to the right, almost at a right angle, brings us into the harbour, which then stretches out due east in a straight line, upwards of two miles long and half a mile wide. This is the Eastern Bosphorus; and the "Golden Horn" of the Pacific.

The town of Vladivostok extends nearly the entire length of the north side of the harbour, and in configuration it rather resembles St. John's, Newfoundland, the houses beginning at the water's edge and gradually thinning out as the hills behind get steeper. The anchorage is so admirable that the *Takachiho*, a vessel 327 feet long, lies within a stone's throw of the wharves, and the same anchorage exists all round. Directly in front of us, after we have anchored, are three little parallel streets constituting the Chinese bazaar. On our left is the Chinese and Korean town of wooden shanties; behind us are five or six

blocks of fine brick buildings forming the winter barracks, while straight away ahead is a broad street soon disappearing over the hill, to become after a while the great Siberian post-road. The main street runs parallel with the harbour, and on this are the chief stores and many of the private houses. A quarter of a mile along it to our right is the Governor's residence, buried in a square mass of foliage—the gardens where the band plays regularly and the society of Vladivostok comes to walk and to gossip. Further on, always between the water and the street, is the "Staff," the Governor's official head-quarters, a large handsome building, and further still, a mile or more from where we lie, a tall chimney marks the situation of the "Port," as the Russians call it, a score or more of store-houses and machine-shops forming the Navy Yard or Arsenal. This extends along the shore for a quarter of a mile and the torpedo-boats and small ships of the Siberian Squadron lie alongside, with a confiscated American fishing-sloop, while the iron-clads and gun-boats are anchored a little further off. On the opposite shore of the harbour there are no buildings of any kind, except an iron store-house deep in the woods here and there, isolated presumably on account of inflammable or explosive contents. On the summits of the two high hills behind the town are two stations for the fire-watch.

The chief hotel of Vladivostok is at a pastry-cook's shop, so I remained in my comfortable quarters on board, and after breakfast I went on shore to present my semi-official introduction—an imposing looking document a foot square with the Russian Eagle on the back—to the Military Governor, Rear-Admiral Ermolaiew. His Excellency received me with the utmost courtesy, but his efforts to conceal his vast surprise at my visit were in vain. He read the letter—a long one—then he looked at me; then he read it again and looked again. "Yes," he said, finally, "anything I can do for you, of course, but what on earth do you want to see at Vladivostok?" I modestly replied that, with His Excellency's permission, I wanted to see everything. "But what?" As I had only been an hour on the place, however, I was not in position to specify my desires in detail. "But what shall I do?" To dictate to a Russian Military Governor was naturally repugnant to me, and as Admiral Ermolaiew's French—the only language in which we could communicate was of a rudimentary character, the conversation was rapidly approaching an embarrassing dead-lock. Suddenly, with an explosive "Ah!" the Governor sprang from his chair and disappeared, returning in a minute with his wife, a most attractive and energetic lady, charming even at that early hour of the morning. Madame Ermolaiew spoke French like a phonograph, with the native tact of a Russian she straightened matters in a moment, and five minutes later I was bowed out between the salute of the bluejacket and the sentry, with the Governor's card in my pocket bearing a written permission to go anywhere and see almost anything, and with an appointment to meet an officer the next morning at eleven who would act as cicerone. I was slightly out of breath, it is true, at the speed of the interview, but naturally very grateful for the distinguished courtesy, as the sum total of my various interviews with Admiral and Madame Ermolaiew did not cover fifteen minutes, I take leave of them here with my respect and best thanks and with many apologies to his Excellency for the sudden surprise into which my presence plunged him.

Vladivostok is a purely military town. That is, not only does it owe its existence to strategic and military considerations, but even after it has been thus created, no other interests or enterprises have grown up around it. In this case trade has not followed the flag: the place is just Russia's

one stronghold and naval base on the Pacific, and nothing else. Its imports consist of the supplies for the military and naval population and those who minister to them; its only export at present is a little seaweed. Two other industries might be developed here, however, and these are well worth the attention of energetic men with some capital. Siberia contains vast forests of the finest and largest timber, and a very important export trade in this could easily be cultivated. And the authorities find great difficulty in supplying themselves with fresh meat. Cattle are imported regularly from Corea, but the supply is poor and uncertain, while Siberia is probably as well suited in many parts for cattle-raising as Western Canada. I believe, moreover, that the Russian authorities would materially help the right man to introduce this. At present, however, all its commerce is a tribute to the God of Battles. A Russian store is just closing up, and the two great stores, magnificent stone and brick buildings, employing scores of clerks and salesmen, where you can buy absolutely everything from a pound of butter to a piano—are owned by Germans, the one by Messrs. Kunst and Albers, the other by Mr. Langellitje. There is also the smaller general store of Mr. Hagemann, almost the only English resident. The population of the place is probably about as follows:—

Russian civilians.....	2,000
Foreign Do.....	800
Chinese.....	5,000
Coreans.....	850
Troops.....	2,600
Bluejackets ashore.....	750
Total.....	12,000

The Chinese and Coreans are under very strict regulations, being only allowed to reside in their own quarter, and any found in the street after nine o'clock at night are arrested and locked up. This was found necessary to prevent disturbance. Probably 2,000 Chinese labourers are employed in the arsenal alone, and all the harbour-front population, boatmen, cargo-handlers, etc., are Chinese or Coreans. The stores employ many Chinese, they are patrolled all night by Chinese watchmen, and the only domestic servants are Chinamen or Japanese women. Many of the Chinese come in the spring, when the harbour opens, and leave again, mostly for Chefoo, in the late autumn when it closes. There has been some talk about putting a prohibitory tax upon poor John Chinaman here too, but it will come to nothing; he is indispensable.

Life in this corner of Russian Tartary is lively enough, especially in winter. Communication with the outside world is easy by mail and telegraph. Letters come by sea (very few go overland) from San Francisco in four weeks, and telegrams to European Russia are ridiculously cheap. During the summer there are the constant festivities attending the arrival of foreign men-of-war. All the Russian officers, too, are fond of society and there is a first-rate band. In winter it is of course dreadfully cold, and a frozen stick of milk is left at the door in the morning and the beef is kept frozen in a tub and cut out as wanted. But from Christmas onwards for a couple of months, I am told there is a ceaseless round of social gaiety. Excellent pheasant and duck-shooting is to be had over the surrounding bays and hills; large deer abound on an island a day's sail to the south; while the famous thick-coated Northern tigers are to be found by seeking. One of the traditions of Vladivostok, and a true one, too, tells how a young fellow named Chudjakow was out shooting one day, when a tiger met him. He fired and killed it. Scarcely had it fallen, however, when a second walked out of the woods. He fired again, hitting this one, which turned tail and disappeared. A moment later a tiger appeared again from

the same place. He fired for the third time, supposing this to be the same animal, and wounded it slightly. Before he could reload, however, it was upon him and he was fighting it for his life. He rifle was useless, and he had only a long hunting-knife. As he did not return at night his father and friends organised a search-party, and at last found him unconscious between the paws of the dead tiger. A little way off lay the body of the first, and just inside the wood they found the second, which had died of its wounds. The days are gone by when the houses at Vladivostok were barricaded against the great cats, which used to come into the back yards at night and revel in the family slops put for them, and when men did not venture out after dark except five or six together, all armed; but I have seen one of the tigers thus shot by Chudjakow, and a photograph of the young man himself and the three skins.

Everything in Vladivostok is made subservient to military interests, and there is no pretence to the contrary. The Mayor is merely the vehicle of the Governor's will. The neighbourhood of every fortified point is strictly guarded by sentries, whom no civilian ever passes. The local weekly newspaper, the *Vladivostok*, with a circulation of 450 copies, is edited (excellently so far as geographical, ethnological, and other non-contentious information is concerned) by a member of the Staff, and the Governor himself is the Censor. In return for this, however, it receives an official subsidy of 2,000 roubles a year. The police, who know everything that passes and the movements of everyone, resident or stranger, are of course the Governor's pawns, under the command of a military officer. No foreign consuls are allowed to reside at Vladivostok, the only foreign representative being Mr. Terami, called the Japanese Commissioner of Trade or some such non-political title. Most foreign newspapers and books are forbidden, as in European Russia, and at the only bookseller's in town I could not buy a single volume in any foreign language, except a few French works of world-famous innocence, used everywhere as school reading-books. And inquisitiveness or gossip on the part of the foreign population about local, naval, or military affairs is sternly discouraged, and trespassers against this unwritten law soon learn very distinctly that they will be more comfortable if they obey it. I ran up against this before I had been in Vladivostok four hours. My first day there I was lunching at a foreign house, and happened, naturally and quite innocently, to put some question or other about the batteries. "That is a matter," I was immediately told by my host, "that we make a point of knowing nothing about. We find that ignorance on such subjects is the only way to get along pleasantly with our Russian friends. Beside, it is none of our business, any way. We are here as traders, not as possible combatants." So I put no more questions of that kind. The many Russian officers that I met and talked with, told me, of course, just as little as they liked, and the sources of information were therefore distressingly conspicuous by their absence. With eyes and ears, however, fairly accustomed to fortifications, a good field-glass, and the help of the little bird who whispers to journalists as well as to lovers and liars, there was interesting information to be picked up, and before I have done I hope to tell you a few new things about this far-away extremity of the Muscovite Empire. I must add, however that the authorities put no ridiculous restrictions or professions of violent secrecy in my way. On the contrary, the name of the *Pall Mall Gazette* had only to be uttered to assure me a hearty welcome, and many were the messages of thanks and appreciation I was begged to convey to its editor. I was immediately told that I could not inspect the batteries or fortifications from within—a permission I should

never have dreamed of asking; but several places where no Englishman had ever been before—the whole of the Navy Yard and Arsenal, for instance—were thrown open to me; the Governor's card took me almost everywhere; I had a written permission to take photographs, with certain specified exceptions—a permission I freely availed myself of; I was immediately introduced at the Naval Club; and finally the Governor's Adjutant lent me his own boat. As I thus sped across the harbour of this Russian stronghold, in command of a Russian official's barge, pulled by six lusty Russian bluejackets, and with a Russian rear-admiral's flag trailing behind me, it struck me as a decidedly unique position for an English journalist, and as an interesting commentary upon the suspicion and exclusiveness and unfriendliness that are so freely attributed to the Russians by our own people and press.

In my next letter I will try to answer the question, "Is Russian impregnable on the Pacific?" in the light of the new and striking facts I have discovered.

HENRY NORMAN.

Vladivostok, 6th Oct.

CHINESE CURRENCY, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society,

Shanghai, January, 1889.

The Council of the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society are desirous of collecting information regarding the currency and measures in use in all parts of China, and request the favour of a short paper from you embodying information on the points given below. The papers when received will be summarised; and the summaries, together with the papers on which they are based, will be read at one of the open meetings of the Society, or printed in the Journal, at the discretion of the Council.

The points on which information is sought, are as follows:—

1.—What are the kinds of Tael (兩) of Silver (the Haikwan or 關平 Tael excluded) known in your district? Please give names in full, thus 湘平化寶銀 (Hsiang-p'ing Hua-pao Yeh), together with the colloquial name.

2.—What is the actual weight in grains (437½ grains equal to one ounce avoirdupois) of the Tael of each 平?

Note.—It is suggested that weighing a Fifty-tael or Fifty-pound weight will give more accurate results than weighing a one-tael or one-pound weight.

3.—What is the touch or fineness of each of the several kinds of Silver (pure silver being taken as 1,000 fine)?

4.—In each Tael of currency weighing (so many) grains, how many grains are there of pure silver (1,000 fine)?

5.—How many Taels of each of the currencies mentioned by you, are considered to be the equivalent locally of 100 K'u-p'ing Taels of pure silver (庫平足紋銀)?

6.—What relation do Mexican Dollars bear to the Tael commonly used locally? (100 Taels = 1 Dollars).

7.—What kinds of Copper Cash are used in your district? What is a Tiao, and what its value?

8.—What relation do Copper Cash bear to the Mexican Dollar and/or the local Tael?

9.—To what extent are Cash Notes (paper money) used locally? If used at all, please give some account of them.

10.—Are Bank Notes (or Bankers' cheques) for Silver used in your district otherwise than as cheques?

11.—What weights of Catty (斤) are known in your district? Please give the equivalent in ounces avoirdupois or in grammes. Which is the one generally used?

12.—What weights of Picul (石 or 擔) are known in your district? Please give the equivalent in pounds avoirdupois or in kilos. Which is the one generally used?

13.—What variations are known from the table.

16 Taels (兩) = 1 Catty (斤).

100 Catties (斤) = 1 Picul (石).

14.—Does the Tael (兩) of Currency bear any exact relation to the Catty (斤) of commerce?

15.—What is the weight in lbs. or kilos of dry rice contained in the Peck (斗) known in your district? What is its capacity in English cubic inches or in cubic centimetres?

16.—What lengths of Foot (尺) are known in your district? Please give equivalent in English standard inches (and decimals) or in decimal of a metre. What are their names or use?

17.—What variations are known from the table

10 Inches (寸) = 1 Foot (尺).

10 Feet (尺) = 1 Chang (丈).

18.—What is the length of a Pace (步)?

19.—What is the length of a Li (里)?

NOTE.—It would be seem that the Li ought to be 360 Pu (步); the Pu however varies, and it is desirable to ascertain if the Li is anywhere the exact equivalent of 360 local Pu.

20.—What is the area of a Mou (畝) known in your district? Please give the equivalent in English square feet or in square metres.

NOTE.—It would seem that the Mou ought to be a strip of land 240 Pu (步) long and 1 Pu wide. It is desirable to ascertain if the Mou is anywhere the exact equivalent of 240 local square Pu; also if the Mou in the same district varies according to the soil to be measured.

21.—How is the area of land under one mou designated? Please give a table.

22.—Please give any other information regarding these measures not covered by the above questions.

Your reply should be addressed to

The Hon. Secretary,

China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.

Shanghai.

and should reach him not later than the 31st August, 1889. It would be a convenience to editor and printer if communications were written on one side only of the paper.

Should you be unable from any cause to answer any or all of the above questions, the Council would esteem it a favour if you would hand this paper to some friend in your neighbourhood.

THE CHINESE IN HONOLULU.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The total population of the Hawaiian Islands does not exceed 80,000 at the highest estimate, all told: the best authorities place it somewhere between 60,000 and 70,000, or barely half that of Fiji. Yet already the Chinese number from one quarter to one third of the whole, and, as everywhere else where their interests come into collision with those of the whites, they have been tried and found wanting. It was in 1878 that the Hawaiian government [大檀山] first addressed an official communication to the Canton Viceroy, through Mr. Mackrill Smith, their Acting Consul-General for Hongkong; but the Chinese authorities shewed no readiness to open up official relations with so insignificant a power. Hawaii, however, is perfectly independent, and like its quasi-protector, the United States, annually celebrates its Independence Day,—its emancipation from the control of either France or Great Britain; which two great powers are supposed to

have had designs upon the group, and finally agreed to mutually abstain in favour of native rulers. Kamehameha the Great was the first Hawaiian monarch to unite by conquest the different principalities into one Kingdom; but all of his race are long extinct or discredited, good Queen Enma is dead as her successor, and the capricious and extravagant Kalakaua now reigns in his stead. Opium-smoking is a criminal offence in Hawaii; but one of Kalakaua's most recent performances was to receive from a wily Chinese a bribe of \$70,000, in consideration of granting to him the opium monopoly: this sum Kalakaua's own judges have decreed to be restored, adding, wisely, however, that "the King can do no wrong, and was deceived in his grant." As in Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, the objection to the Chinese is of doubtful purity. Quite recently a Chinese total exclusion bill was introduced into, if not passed by, the Hawaiian legislature, but it is unlikely that it will ever take effect. That objection to the Chinese which is based on the consideration of morals, or rather immorality is decidedly out of place, and comes with bad grace from San Francisco. The Chinese in Honolulu, as elsewhere, bring very few Chinese women with them; but this, with the family views held by the Chinese, is not much to be wondered at, and would certainly be remedied if sufficient security were given, or even tacitly understood, that Chinese family rights would be respected, and that facilities would be given to obtain suitable land for burial grounds. As it is, quite a considerable number of Chinese have brought women with them, and have settled permanently in the country, whilst the majority content themselves with connections, more or less temporary, formed with the Kanaka women, who here, unlike what is the case in Fiji, are ready to sell their charms to the highest bidder. It is admitted that the Chinese have been the immediate and sole means of bringing under cultivation a great deal of waste land which would otherwise never have been brought under cultivation at all: as coolies they work well, and as quietly as any others; but the difficulty is that they are rarely willing to remain as labourers one day longer than their contract time. With his genius for peddling and huckstering, every Chinaman who shall have saved a hundred dollars conceives an irresistible ambition to open a store or a barber's shop; a cook-house, vegetable-garden, carpenter's booth, or what not; and it is universally granted that the white man has no show at all when he is pitted in free competition with the economical, patient, and industrious Chinese. The finest stores in Honolulu are at least half Chinese, and it need hardly be said that goods are obtained there, as at Shanghai, much cheaper than at the foreign stores. The "boys" at the hotels are neatly dressed Chinese, and John seems quite at home in the art of mixing ice-cream drinks, and in running the business of a saloon. The best offers for leaseholds are made by Chinese, who, however, shew a very natural reluctance to purchase land in the islands outright. If they were encouraged to do so, and if the islands were ruled after the sensible fashion in which the British rule Hongkong and Singapore, the Hawaiian group would soon be sufficiently populated by an industrious alien race, and the surviving natives would find their level as wives or servants of the Chinese. The great want of the country is labour, and without a constantly fresh supply the magnificent sugar, coffee and banana plantations can never hope to compete with other places at a profit. It is only United States protection, and the powerful influence of Spreckels Brothers which, even now, make the sugar export to California a profitable one. There is a fair proportion of Chinese amongst the prisoners in gaol; but the existence of Hawaiian penitentiary discipline

may be judged from the fact that on the King's birthday the prisoners of all nationalities were engaged in dancing reels and native posturing in a carpenter's shed adjoining the street, to the music of a bandoline or guitar. China town, or that part of Honolulu which is chiefly inhabited by Chinese, differs in no way from the lower purlieus of Hongkew. There is a *huai kuan*, or guild, which (nearly the whole population hailing from Kuangtung) is described accordingly as the Chinese and not as the Cantonese Guild, as it otherwise would be. Chinese proclamations posted about the streets shew that the guild is practically an official corporation under the control of the Minister at Washington, who submits [查詳] his propositions to the Viceroy at Canton. One of these documents proves beyond a doubt what means are sanctioned by the Chinese Government when it wishes to put pressure on its subjects abroad, and it would be well to bear this in mind. After warning certain ill-disposed Chinese from levying black-mail (possibly aiding in collecting taxes) on Chinese shops, the threat is uttered that the Viceroy of Canton, in conjunction with the Canton magistrates [會札縣官] will order the arrest of offenders' relatives in China [拘其親屬] in case of disobedience.

The Japanese, on the other hand, are heartily welcomed as immigrants, and the *Takasago Maru* quite recently arrived with a freight of one thousand of them. The Hawaiian government very sensibly insists on a proper proportion of women; and, accordingly, two hundred of the latter accompanied the men,—an arrangement which, when the easy morals of the Japanese are considered, will give ample opportunities to satisfy the several aspirations of both sexes. The Japanese do not live in the town like Chinese, but on plantations, or in village communities, where they patiently till the soil. Being less troubled than the Chinese by the considerations of home sickness and ancestral claims, the Japanese, who, moreover, do not smoke opium or trouble themselves with political intrigues, are undoubtedly an improvement on the Chinese. It may be mentioned that large numbers of them have found their way to Queensland and South Australia (Port Darwin); but in this instance the trade they conduct, if congenial and profitable, is not elevating to the moral instincts, and involves a decided disproportion of the sexes, which as is also the case with them in Annam, Siam, Burma, and Malay lands, works quite in the contrary direction to that effected by the Chinese. The Japanese coolies receive \$15 a month and find themselves. Their contract is for three years, and they pay their own passage to Honolulu in instalments.

NOTES FROM NATIVE APPERS.

After the Taiping rebellion, which turned the country bordering on the Yangtze, both North and South, into one vast battlefield, was quelled, great numbers of the rebels fled to foreign countries. One named Li Yu-tao, who had been a rebel General, went to America, went into business in New York, and after several tens of years' industry, had amassed a fortune of several million taels, holding large properties in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. Li Yu-tao lately died, and his funeral was on a scale of great magnificence. Workmen were hard at work at the preparations for nine days. The coffin and bier were in the style of the Ming dynasty, and the body had a glittering crown hung with festoons of gold imitation coins on its head and ingots of gold in its hands. The paper imitation silver money and all the appurtenances of the funeral were in the style of a prince of the Ming dynasty, and at least a thousand mourners attended, besides which an immense crowd came to look on. It is strange to think of an outlaw and

fugitive from justice, ending so well as Li Yu-tao.

In two former numbers of our paper we gave an account of the capture by the French of the King of Annam. On 16th December the French transport *Bien-hoa* brought to Singapore 150 men and four women, all Annamese, and political prisoners. Some of these were officials of the old Annamese Government, and all were undergoing deportation from their country as a punishment for not submitting to the invaders. Half of them were bound for a French possession in the Mediterranean and half for the colony of Cayenne. The King, restricted to a suite of one interpreter and one cook, is banished to Aeria (Algeria?), and this was his offence. When the French had captured his capital, he said to his Minister, flicking away the salt tears that poured from his eyes: "The patrimony which my ancestors have held for hundreds of years is gone to the strangers. All is lost apparently, but have you, my long tried and trusted Counsellor, no advice to give me?" The Minister, also weeping, replied: "Strong and crafty are the enemy, and we cannot openly withstand them, but I have a last resource, which, by the help of the virtue accumulated by your royal ancestors and the secret help of their manes in your ancient temples, may be of some avail. It is a desperate expedient, and if it fail our death is certain." Then the king said: "Death can hardly be worse than this, and we have thus everything to gain and nothing to lose. At the worst we can but follow our forefathers to the nine fountains (heaven)! We would hear your scheme." "Then invite," said the Counsellor, "the French General Ko-shi (!) to a banquet, have a train of gunpowder ready, and let it be fired when the foe is merry with our wine. With one blow we shall thus annihilate the power of the enemy, and the French will cease to trouble our Annam." The Emperor joyfully assented to this plan, but unfortunately a traitorous official of his divulged it to the French in the hope of a reward, and General Ko-shi marched into the palace with armed men. The king then eluded pursuit, but lately he has been captured, and the French Government have decreed his banishment as before stated.—*Hu Pao*.

The *Shen Pao* learns from Japanese newspapers that the Korean Government have given orders in November for the closing of the gold mines, and have thus deprived tens of thousands of miners of a means of living and driven them to brigandage. After stating its opinion that this is a canard, it observes that if the Korean Government have really taken such a retrograde step, they might have been led to do so by the following causes:—

(1) *Feng-shui* superstition on the part of the populace. The Korean people are densely superstitious, and even in China, although the planting of telegraph lines everywhere by the Government has tended to weaken this particular superstition, yet at Hoh-feng Chow in Ichang Fu, Hupeh, lately it was so strong that it prevented the Government opening the mines it intended.

(2) Want of funds. But in that case, says the *Shen Pao*, it should have raised a foreign loan, or applied to China, the suzerain and protector of Corea, to raise one for her.

(3) The intrigues of Russia or of Japan, both of which countries look with covetous eyes on Corea, and want some of the gold to remain in the country when they make their coup.

The *Shen Pao* gives a sketch of the ceremony of the handing over of the reins of Government by the present Empress to the Youthful Emperor, which will take place on the 3rd day of the 2nd moon, or on 4th March 1889, with a most elaborate ceremonial.

The Taot'ai of Ningpo has authorised the building of a native lucifer-match factory and the manufacture of matches by the "Jen K'ien" and other native firms of Tzé K'i Hien. Japanese workmen will be employed for a time until the Chinese acquire the necessary skill. This is quite a new departure and will give China a share in the profits hitherto monopolised by foreign importers. The factory is to be in a retired place where it cannot become a nuisance or prejudicial to the health of the townsmen. The inferior Chinese authorities and the Commissioner of Customs have been duly notified by Taot'ai Sieh.—*Shen Pao*.

The following sums were subscribed for the relief of the sufferers from the drought and floods in the Kiangsu, Kiangsi, and Anhui provinces at the meeting at Mr. Drummond's office on the 2nd January, 1889:—

	Tls.	\$
Kung, Taotai	10,000.00	—
Jen Feng-sin, Assist. Director of Telegraphs	600.00	—
Nieh, Director of the Kiangnan Arsenal	600.00	—
Sü Tze-tsing	—	500.00
Y. Ching-chong	500.00	—
Tong Mow-chi, (Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s Compradore) ..	—	500.00
Yang King-tek (Russell & Co.'s Compradore)	—	500.00
Ho Tan-shu	—	500.00
Lo Ching-poh	—	100.00
Mr. Drummond	100.00	—
" A. G. Wood	100.00	—
" Bishop, Chartered Merc. Bank	—	100.00
" Bredon, Act. Com. of Customs	50.00	—
" Hillier, Deputy Com. of Customs ..	—	50.00
" Vouillemont, C. d'Escompte de Paris	—	100.00
" Wetmore	100.00	—
" Buchheister	500.00	—
	12,550.00	2,350.00

—Hu-pao.

We hear that now the German Government, following the examples of the Italian, have signed an agreement with China that hereafter all Germans of the Roman Catholic faith, whether missionaries or otherwise, shall apply to the German authorities for a passport, when intending to travel in the interior of China,—and not heretofore to the French.—*Hu Pao*.

The following are the statistics of China's trade with Russia in 1887:—

	Roubles.
Imports from Russia exclusive of metals	2,353,502
European Imports by Russian merchants (countries other than Russia)	0,251,914
Imports of metals from Russia	2,924,085

Imports from Russia in 1887 show an increase of 50% on 1886, and from other European countries by Russian merchants an increase of 18 per cent. Metals an increase of 28 per cent. The principal imports are cow and sheep hides, and the principal Chinese produce exported in return is tea, which figures to the amount of Roubles 24,097,679 out of a total of all exports, Roubles 26,456,577.

In view of the sanguinary conflicts constantly occurring between the Salt Protective Service and Salt smugglers in China, and the great expense caused to the Government by the maintenance of the elaborate organization for the protection of the revenue derived from the provincial gabelle or Salt Monopoly, the *Hu-pao* suggests in a leading article the taxation of all Salt produced once for all at the places of production, at the rate of say 1 or 2 cash per catty, and afterwards the permission of unrestricted transport anywhere within the Empire.

Mr. James Hart is said to have received instructions to make enquiries at Singapore and other places of the quantity of Opium imported and exported. This is said to be in connection with a future change in the tariff of duties collected on Opium by the Chinese Government.—*Hu-pao*.

Narr Reports.

MIXED COURT.

THE ALLEGED BRIBERY CASE.

At the Mixed Court on Friday morning before Magistrate Tsai and Mr. Carles, British Assessor, the above case was proceeded with.

ZE A-TAH, a gambler gave evidence. He said—I am a gambler, and seeing the reports of this case in the native papers, I come forward as a witness or middleman. Wong Fên-tsao, Le Sung-dong "Mo-pi" (chop dollar) A-pao and myself had a consultation, and we decided to give half a dollar for each gambling table a day to the police, payable half monthly, so that the police should not interfere with us. Some of the money was paid to Wong Fên-tsao, some to Li Sung-dong and some to Yang and these were to pay the money to the Police.

The Assessor—Why did you pay the money to Wong Fên-tsao knowing that he was not connected with the Police?

Witness—Because he knew we was a good friend of Yang.

LI SUNG-DONG who has been over ten years in Shanghai said—I am a shroff in the gambling establishment in Hongkew. I have no fixed salary; sometimes I receive more, sometimes less.

The Assessor—Who is the proprietor of the gambling establishment?

Witness—"Mo-pi" Apao, Yang-tsz, the tipao Aza, Ho A-chi, Wong Tsui-kwai, and Wong Fên-tsao. I was told this by Wong Fên-tsao. He also told me that he had a friend from Hongkong who knew Ni Pong, and Ni Pong knows Inspector Cameron's boy. No. 36 (ex-Detective Mack) a long while ago, wanted to make a raid on the gamblers, and the gamblers were informed through Inspector Cameron's boy who told Ni Pong that the raid was to be made. The raid was made by a native detective, and the place was burnt to the ground. We then removed to the Chung-chia-wei, about 5 or 6 li distant from the old place. We then agreed to pay the Police to leave us alone. The money was sent, and handed by me to Inspector Cameron's boy regularly, till the boy went to Hongkong, when I handed the money to Yang (Interpreter).

The Assessor, producing a Chinese account book, said: There is mention made in this book of a payment of \$200 to Yang. Why did you pay this money, on what account was it paid?

Witness—There is an entry of \$200 paid to Yang, but this has nothing to do with any gambling transactions, the money was paid to clear a mortgage. There are two accounts opened in the book, one for money paid for Inspector Cameron, and the other for his boy, Yang, and other subordinates. On one occasion, I met Inspector Cameron at the Rifle Butts, "Mo-pi" Apao and Yang were with me, and I saw "Mo-pi" Apao hand Inspector Cameron some notes. On a certain occasion, the Police were going to make a raid on us, and the Inspector's boy sent us a note to warn us to keep out of the way, but this note was received by Wong Fên-tsao and he said nothing about it, because he had quarrelled with the other proprietors, and he kept it as proof against Inspector Cameron's boys. This he did because the other proprietors did the business through the boy, instead of through him. The boy knowing, this informed his master; the consequence was that Wong Fên-tsao was arrested as a gambler. I heard that \$60 in

notes were sent to ex-Detective Kelly who took the money to Inspector Cameron, because he could not receive it, but the Inspector wanted to divide the money with him. Kelly reported the matter to the Captain Superintendent, and the money was confiscated.

The Assessor—How do you know this?

Witness—It was talked about by the gamblers and the information came from the Inspector's boy.

LO AH-CHAO said—I am Inspector Cameron's boy, I have come up from Hongkong. I attend to Mr. Cameron's "chow chow" department. I do not know any of the gamblers. About two months ago, Yang wanted to see Inspector Cameron and I had instructions from my master, not to let him see him (my master), and so I would not allow him to go upstairs. In consequence of this, Yang had a grudge against me.

The Assessor to Yang—What is your business in the Police Station, and where do you live?

YANG—I live in Hongkew and I am a writer for the Captain Superintendent of Police, and I write letters, etc., for him. I am acquainted with Li Sung-dong, the shroff.

(A native detective named Lo A-zung here called out "You always said you did not know this shroff; how is it now that you say you know him?")

YANG, took no notice of the remark and continuing his evidence, said—A gambler, —was arrested and fined \$300. Inspector Cameron bailed this man out, which he ought not to have done, being a Police Officer. I received envelopes enclosing dollars and besides \$10 loose. I received this money from the gamblers and handed it to Mr. Cameron, asking him for a receipt which he declined to give. With reference to the \$200, that had to do with another matter. I was at the Rifle Butts when "Mo-pi" A-pao handed Inspector Cameron the notes, and one night, the Captain Superintendent wanted to have "Mo-pi" arrested, whereupon Inspector Cameron sent someone to warn him, and "Mo-pi" got so excited over the information that he jammed his finger in a safe. On another occasion when the Captain Superintendent wanted to arrest the gamblers, the Inspector also gave them warning. The Captain Superintendent suggested that the Taotai should send some soldiers to assist the Police to guard the locality, but through the Inspector's advice, this was not done.

The Assessor—It was I who advised that the soldiers should not be sent.

LI CHING-DONG, an ex-detective, said—One night, I was in an opium shop with Wong-a-su one of the detectives and Yang, I heard Yang say the Police wanted money from the gamblers, and I know that Yang gets paid by gamblers, even by the lowest gamblers.

CHANG MAO, a tipao, said—I heard Lo Sung-ling, who brought the charge against Inspector Cameron, say that Yang had instigated him to do so, and that he would not have dared to do it, if Yang had not sworn to sacrifice his own son, if he did not back him (Lo Sung-ling) up.

Inspector CAMERON denied the statements made about himself and in proof that he had had nothing to do with receiving bribes, he said he had made 369 raids on gamblers and that at present there is no gambling going at the places he has raided. With reference to the statement that he stood security for a man in \$500, he did not. A shop-keeper bailed the man out and he, the Inspector, only took the bailee to the Mixed Court to get the prisoner out.

The case was then adjourned for a week. Before the parties left the Court, a detective said to Yang "you always want the Chinese constables to stand treat at the opium shops" which Yang denied saying it was not true, and that he was out of the Police now.

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

BIRTH.

At Shanghai, on the 8th instant, the wife of CHARLES IBURG, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

At the German Consulate-General, on the 4th instant, before Dr. Focke, Consul-General and afterwards by the Rev. Dr. Faber, Dr. C. MERZ, H.G.M.'s Acting Consul at Amoy & MARIA, daughter of Julius Firus.

DEATHS.

At New York, on the 28th Nov., 1888, of typhoid fever, ERNEST FORESHLEW, aged 33 years.

At Home, on the 2nd inst., ARTHUR HOLAH, Barrister-at-Law, formerly of Shanghai. (By telegraph).

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 6th January, 1889, JOSEPH J. POYNTER (Tide-surveyor, I.M. Customs, Chinkiang), aged 47 years.

On board U.S.S. *Omaha*, on the 8th January, 1889, (Suddenly) EDWIN WELLS, Chief Engineer U.S.N., aged 51 years.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per str. *Melbourne*, for Japan—B. von de Graaf and servant, Mr. Lowder, Messrs. Green, Verleysen and A. J. Davis.

Per str. *Saikio Maru*, for Nagasaki—Messrs. J. L. Cameron, G. C. Jacobson and Hin Hop Yee. For San Francisco—Mr. E. A. Jackson.

Per str. *Colédonien*, for Hongkong—Messrs. J. S. Rault, W. H. Wickham, M. Stempel and Mrs. H. R. Smith. For Singapore—Mr. E. A. Bush. For Marseilles—Messrs. G. Girault, F. F. West and M. Synnot, Mr. and Mrs. W. Brand.

Per str. *Melbourne*, for Shanghai:—From Marseilles—Mr. Mrs. and Miss Wheelock and 2 children, Miss Osler, Messrs. Cockerill, Rocher, Halbout and Fero. From Hongkong—Mrs. Senna and child, Messrs. Armstrong, W. B. Jemieson, Guizzardi, Maggiale, Shuttle, Souza, V. F. Senna, James Sike, Macal, and Bishop Sampine. For Kobe—Mrs. Felix Marie, Mrs. Bathu, Mrs. Barriaci and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Oshida, and Mr. A. Breton. For Yokohama—Sir Thomas and Lady McIlwraith, 3 children and servant, Mrs. Forier and Mrs. Péri, Messrs. Kirine, Gerié, Tokimoto, Maudin, Martins, Ramsdell, Lanford, Thomson, Dalmer, and Major Bysbee.

ARRIVED.

Per str. *Natal*, from Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Muller, Messrs. Sinclair, Levy and Passavant. From Kobe—Mr. Ching Yuen Ching.

Per str. *Kiangteen*, from Ningpo—Mr. and Miss Pettus.

Per str. *Tungchow*, from Ningpo—Mrs. Willie.

Per str. *Ngankio*, from Hankow—Baron de Graaff and European servant. From Kiukiang—Mrs. Lowder. From Wuhu—Mr. Coulthard (H.M.'s Consul).

Per str. *Sual*, from Hankow—Mr. and Mrs. Osborne, Messrs. Hill, Molland and Kupfer.

Per str. *Yokohama Maru*, from Japan—Mr. Thos. Long.

Per str. *Sungkiang*, from Swatow and Amoy—Messrs. Salzwedel and Lucassan.

Per str. *Taiwo*, from Hankow—Hon. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. Douglas Jones, Gaddum, and Ashley.

Per str. *Tungchow*, from Ningpo—Mr. Wadman.

Per str. *Wuchang*, from Chefoo—Mrs. Gylee and child, and Mr. Marshall.

Per str. *Kiangkwan*, from Hankow—Mr. McKelvie and family, Messrs. Jenkins, Migrant, Ammand and Johnsonford.

Per str. *Sin Nanzing*, from Chefoo—Mr. H. Bohr.

Per str. *Shanghai*, from Hankow—Messrs. (2) Phipps.

LEAVING.

Per str. *Sulthj*, for Hongkong—Messrs. H. Lawford, H. F. Wadman, Jas. J. Bell-Irving, and John Bell-Irving.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

SHANGHAI, 10th January, 1889.

PIECE GOODS.—The market has not been a brisk one this week, but, although it has been quiet, it is decidedly strong. A satisfactory feature has been the fair "cash" demand for the near Ports, (Shanghai chiefly, which has reached some Importers, but necessarily confined more or less to particular chops and makes. The bulk of the business naturally is speculative and for delivery not before the first of the Northern steamers, and it is rumoured too that the speculation is on the part of the middle man, and only a small proportion of the recent settlements has been actually placed with the merchants. This, although it shows that those who come in closest contact with the Importers do not look for lower prices for some time, is not altogether a healthy state of things, as the buying now must be in anticipation only of a demand which may not appear, or at all events be overdone, as was apparently the case with some articles last season.

The Auctions during the interval, the prompts of which extend over the New Year, certainly go to show a strong market for Cotton goods, but these were only offered at this morning's sale, and, although the supply was more abundant than usual, prices were fairly satisfactory and showed a steady advance all round, but especially in heavy Shirtings which appear to be scarce privately.

The markets, both in England and America, continue to be very strong, and it is difficult to place orders in Manchester except for very distant delivery. The export for last month has been telegraphed privately as 41 million yards of Plain Cottons, to Hongkong and China, and 3,000 bales of Yarn.

The Stocks on 31st December have not been published by the Chamber of Commerce yet, some of the returns not having been sent in we understand. We have not included the Local deliveries in our statistics this week as they will have to come off the new Stocks.

Grey Shirtings.—S.4-lbs.—The week's business as reported embraces some 40,000 pieces, consisting chiefly of fine makes and at higher prices, namely, *Mare and Fox* £1.41, *Yellow Boy* £1.42, *Green Dragon and Bell* £1.53, *Red Pheasant* £1.58, *Blue 3 Men* £1.59½ (prompt clearance) *Red Boy* £1.62½, *Ne-nuen Two Birds* £1.70, *Green Ponies and Green Globe* £1.71, *Blue Pa tze-de* £1.72½, *Blue Man and Bone* £1.72½, *Nie Kee Blue Dragon* £1.77½, and ditto *Hand and Branch* £1.82½. The demand is still good for forward delivery, about on the basis of these prices, but the quantity on offer appears limited and Importers very firm. Auction prices advanced from one to one and a half caudarens this morning, but clearance is given up to the 11th proximo.

6-lbs. and 7-lbs.—For the above mentioned reasons these goods improved in value at auction about a caudareen all round.

9.12 to 11-lbs.—A strong demand still exists, but goods are scarce and holders firm, consequently sales are few and do not amount to more than 5,000 pieces, as far as we can estimate, they comprise: *Red Ponies* £2.02, *Lee Tai Artillery* £2.34 and *Red Star TXY* £2.37½.

12-lbs.—These continue in good request and business to extent of, say, 15,000 pieces, has been done at firm rates, *Large Mandarin BBB* £2.42½, *Two Stars* and *Koonghing Soldier DDD* £2.55, and another chop at full rates but particulars kept private. The price for *Chung-wo Red Soldier BBB* mentioned last week should have been £2.46.

White Shirtings.—There has been a small business in 64-reeds at the following prices:—£1.60 for *Mississippi*, £1.74½ for *Red Bar* and £1.90 for *Western Travellers*. No 72-reeds have been reported but both counts are fairly firm and advanced at auction all round. Fine makes have been dealt in moderately, but being special chops and makes are not quoted, the transactions including qualities from £2.75 to £3.60.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—Transactions still continue few and far between, 4,000 pieces *Silver Syces* were sold at £1.05 for prompt cash, and a small lot of fine goods, under *Joss* chop, have been placed at £1.41.

8-lbs.—There is not much demand for the common makes and prices offered are very low, but for the heavy weights there seems to be a little more enquiry, any business however that may have been done has not been published.

In Bombay 6-lbs. a sales is reported of 5,000 pieces, under *Red Dragon* chop, at £1.04.

Drills.—English.—The only business mentioned is 7,500 pieces *Beaver* at £2.75. Auction chops show a slight advance, best makes exhibiting most improvement.

American.—Two sales have reached us, namely, 750 pieces *Boott Cock* at £2.85 less 1%, and 7,500 pieces of a new chop at £2.72½ less 1%. The former is looked upon as cheap, and not up to full market rates. The feeling continues firm for standard goods.

Jeans.—English.—Beyond a few more *Sin Wo Beaver* at £1.81 we do not hear of anything doing privately, but at auction rates have improved considerably.

Sheetings.—English.—There has been a continuation of the enquiry for these goods mentioned last week and the natives are gradually raising their offers, which, however, have not yet come up to the ideas of holders, and, so far as we can learn, nothing has been done.

American.—Here also there has been nothing but an enquiry, no settlements being reported, the position remaining as before, firm for standard chops.

Cotton Yarn.—English.—Nothing has resulted from the enquiry noticed in our last, or at all events it has not been revealed. Stocks are getting rather heavy and free supplies are coming forward.

Bombay.—Only a small business has been done, the reduced stock being in few hands is firmly held, and the natives have not responded yet to the higher prices demanded. Sales are only 213 bales, namely:

No. 6s., 18 bales—*Leopold* at £46.

No. 20s., 195 bales—*Alfred* £58½, *Empress* £59½, and *Howard* £59½/59½.

The stock of all counts but 20s is nearly exhausted, and supplies are coming in slowly.

Fancy Goods.—A few *Turkey Reds* have been sold at auction and show a good improvement in price, delivery being extended. Beyond this very little has apparently been done, and Importers seem to prefer to wait until after the holidays rather than accept the low prices now offered. A few orders continue to be taken up for special goods, but the business this year is very small.

Woollens.—Prices did not show the improvement at auction that might have been expected, the rates obtained for best *Camlets* being decidedly disappointing. The lower makes, however, did advance for all colours, except *Dark Blue* and *Light Gentian* in one chop, *Orange* selling very well. A few hundred pieces have been settled privately at previous currencies, namely *Fish PPP* at £9.90 and *Blue Lion* at £10.30, both for an assortment. A further sale of 300 pieces *Long Bils* has been reported, under *Joss* chop, at £4.25—the enquiry continues good and best qualities keep firm. *Lastings* are selling at better prices for forward delivery, and the reduced auction supply helps them. There has been a small business privately at £6.60 for *Black* and £7.50 for *Scarlet*, 10-reed, £6.60 for *Sea Horse Black S-reed*, and £7.00 for *G.H. Black*. *Spanish Stripes* went a little better to-day for *Scarlet* and *Gentian*, but other colours are mostly lower, particularly *Dark Blue*, and the general result is not satisfactory, while private enquiry is conspicuous by its absence. A few pieces *Gentian*, under *Cross Key* chop, have been taken at £0.40½, which is all we hear of. *Russian* and *Medium Cloths* are apparently quite neglected, but there seems to be a little more demand for *Italian Cloths*.

Metals and Miscellaneous.—From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's Report:—My last report was dated the 28th December. The development of affairs during the year since closed has realised but a few and disappointed many of the hopes which were entertained at the beginning of 1887.

LEAD.—This market has continued firm, and sales are reported of some 280 tons L. B., spot, at £4.90 to £4.92½, and 400 tons to arrive at £4.60 to £4.67½.

PIG IRON.—Is in demand at quotations.

NAILED IRON.—The market has developed a sharp upward turn, with an advance of about 10 cents per picul since last writing, and a strong buoyant feeling that indicates the possibility of still higher prices. The flurry is entirely caused by foreign speculators, but it looks as if native dealers would have to follow suit; sales are:—200 tons *Soliers*, spot, at £2.07½; 400 tons at £2.09, and 100 tons December or January shipment at £2.12½. At the close quotations for *Soliers* are £2.15 to £2.20.

IRON WIRE.—A contract for some 800 casks, 11 to 30, is reported closed at £4.10 to £4.15.

OLD IRON.—It appears that only a small proportion of the ladents sent home some time ago have been booked on account of the high freights ruling at home. Sales reported are:—100 tons *Scrap Iron* at £1.40; 30 tons *Ship Plates* at £1.38; 140 tons *Cart Tires* at £1.67½; 150 tons *Chains* at £1.33.

TYNPLATES.—Have advanced in value and 500 boxes *Parson's Coke* have been sold at £4.10. Some hundred cases decorated, contracted at £6, some time ago, were re-sold at £5.80.

STEEL.—1,000 boxes *double Horse Chop* have been placed at £3.50.

STRAITS TIN.—Quotations are unchanged, but the market is firm and higher rates may be looked for.

COPPER AND YELLOW METAL SHEATHING.—The market is without change, the demand is slow and the transactions are small in the aggregate and without special importance.

ZINC SHEATHING, WHITE METAL AND NICKEL.—Transactions are confined to small indent orders.
CAMAGON WOOD.—A sale of 4,000 piculs to arrive from Hongkong is reported at about quotations.
EBONY.—Some 800 piculs ordinary quality have been done at £2.52½.
MATCHES.—Sales are reported of some 500 cases, Butterfly and Ship Chop, Vietnams at £17.50 to £17.80. No business of any consequence has been doing in other kinds.
SOAP.—Is in moderate demand at quotations.
WINDOW GLASS.—Spot continues firm and good assortments are quoted £2.45 to £2.47½. A contract for 2,000 cases "to arrive" is reported at £2.37½.
NEEDLES.—Nothing doing.
DYES AND COLOURS.—There is no change under this heading. Sales reported are :—3,070 tins, ea. 1 catty, Essine, Carriage chop, at £1.35; 5,000 tins, ea. 8 oz., Violet, Boys chop, at 1½ c.; 5,000 tins Powder Green at 12 c.; 1,000 tins, ea. 8 oz., Scarlet, Man chop, at 11 c.; 1,000 tins, ea. 8 oz., Lion chop, at 20½ c.

Kerosene Oil.—Has ruled quiet and easy, no fresh business of any importance having transpired. At auction about 8,600 cases Devos, damaged, were sold at £1.49½ to £1.50½. Deliveries are comparatively small. Natives are selling Devos prompt at £1.58 to £1.58½, Stella at £1.54, and Russian at £1.46 to £1.47½. Stocks are about 500,000 cases.

Opium.—Closing quotations :—Malwa (new) £488, (old) £492, Patna (new) £420, Benares (new) £404.

EXPORTS.

Silk.—From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's Circular—London telegrams quote market quiet—Blue Elephant 14/3. Deliveries to the 7th instant 300 bales.

RAW SILKS.—During the past week the market has been quiet and settlements of all descriptions do not amount to more than 1,000 bales. Total settlements in our last circular have been rather overestimated, and the correct figures are given below.

TSATLEES.—Sales are about 750 bales at £410 for Chick chop No. 4 and £350 for Gold Kiling.

HANGCHOWS.—We hear of a sale of 20 bales Pagoda chop "Lauping" at £347½.

TAYSAAMS.—No business to report.

YELLOW SILKS.—The stocks are reduced. Sales are 50 piculs, consisting of some Mienyangs at £237½ and some Kopuns at £277½ a 280.

Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, from 3rd to 9th January are, 1,307 bales of White Silks, 89 piculs of Yellow Silks and 33 piculs of Wild Silks.

RE-REELS.—Nothing doing.

WILD SILKS.—About 200 bales have changed hands at £130 to 135.

WASTE SILKS.—We quote Tussah Waste £73 and £69 for No. 1 and 2.

SHANTUNG PONGEES.—Nothing doing.

Purchases include :—TSATLEES.—Black Lion III at £425, Black Lion III½ at £412½, Red Pagoda II at £410, Blue Elephant at £400, Gold Stork at £395, Kuekee Kinhook at £395, Bird "Chun-ling" at £372½, Dancing Bear III at £372½, S.S. Dollar at £371, Almond Flower II at £352½, Gold Kiling at £350, Market Tsatlees at £332½, Hangchow Pagoda Lauping at 342½. YELLOW SILK.—Mieyang at £235, Kopun at £277½. TUSSAH.—Raw at £130.

	1888-89.	1887-88.	1886-87.	1885-86.	1884-85.	1883-84.
Settlements for this mail †	about 1,000	1,000	1,750	1,000	1,250	1,000 bales.
" for the season †	45,500	39,000	45,000	42,000	48,000	41,300 "
Stock	3,500	11,500	9,000	9,500	6,000	5,000 "
Total Arrivals	49,000	50,500	54,000	51,500	54,000	46,300 "

† Exclusive of purchases for re-sale on this market.

	*England.	*France, &c.	Total Europe.	America.	India & Egypt.	Coast & Straits.	Grand Total.
Export White Silk	3,891	24,371	28,262	3,121	295	875	32,563 bales.
" Yellow	62	4,167	4,229	2	1,565	336	6,122 "
" Wild	1,543	2,523	4,066	46	...	...	4,112 "
	5,496	31,061	36,557	3,169	1,860	1,211	42,797 "
Against in 1887-88	4,075	28,333	32,408	2,308	2,259	1,243	38,248 "
" 1886-87	2,841	25,392	38,233	4,039	738	894	43,904 "
Export—Waste Silk	11,300	16,662	27,962	3	137	84	28,186 piculs.
" Cocoons	4,052	1,519	5,571	...	53	...	5,624 "

* Many shipments are now sent optional, Marseilles or London.

Also 548 piculs Old Silk Wadding to London.

" 16 " " " to Continent.

Tea.—BLACK.—A small business has been passing, and settlements to the extent of 2,600 ½-chests have been reported during the week, at from £9½ a 13½ per picul for Common to Good Common descriptions. Prices in some cases show a tendency on the part of tea-men to accept easier rates to quit themselves of their stock before the China New Year.

STOCK.—12,171 half-chests against 12,200 ½-chests in 1887-1888.

GREEN.—The supply of Country Teas is almost exhausted consequently the business transacted during the week has been on a small scale, and confined to Moyune descriptions, which have been taken at about previous rates. A fair quantity of Pingsuey has been reported at from £12 a 25½ per picul for Low Common to Fine, but in most cases natives are the shippers, or have had to take an interest.

STOCK.—8,525 half-chests, against 46,675 half-chest in 1887-1888.

SUMMARY OF SETTLEMENTS SINCE LAST MAIL.

Pingsuey	5,600 half-chests at £12	a £25½ per picul.
Moyune	1,434 " " 20	" 26 "
Fychow	116 " " 29	" " "

EXPORT OF TEA FROM SHANGHAI AND YANGTZE PORTS.

From commencement of season to date :—

	1888-89.		1887-88.
	Black.	Green.	Total.
To Great Britain	45,416,823 lbs.	5,610,704 lbs.	51,027,527 lbs.
Russia direct	17,604,478 "	...	12,019,023 "
America	3,814,658 "	12,813,575 "	16,628,233 "
	50,791,131 lbs.	7,028,996 lbs.	57,820,127 lbs.
	12,019,023 "	...	12,019,023 "
	4,242,439 "	11,378,683 "	15,621,072 "

Shares.—The past week has been marked by a rapid advance in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares, which have been taken at 157 per cent. premium for cash, 166 for 30th April, 158 for cash, 168 for 30th April, 161 for cash, 167 for 31st March and 170 for 30th April, 162 and 163 for cash, and 171 for 30th April. New O. B. C. shares have changed hands at £10 15s. and exchange 4/3. Indo-China Steams at £33, Chi-a Fires at \$78 for cash, 79½ for 31st March and 78½ for cash, Pootung Wharf shares at £33, Shanghai Cargobots at £170, J. Llewellyn & Co.'s shares at \$120, Theatre Debentures at £12, Sheridan Mines at £135 and 157½, and Perak Sugars at £15.

Exchange has been steady, but business for the mail small. Native interest is 1 mace, equal to 3½ per cent. per annum. Bar silver has dropped to 42½d. Council Drafts were allotted at 1/4½d., and transfers at 1½ to 1½. The amount offered for tender next week is increased to 40 lakhs.

DAILY QUOTATIONS.
(From Messrs. Morris & Fergusson's Weekly Circular.)

	ON LONDON.								FRANCE.		NEW YORK.	HONG-KONG.	INDIA.
	T/Transfers.		Bank 4 m/s.		Credits 4 m/s.		Docty. 4 m/s.		Frauca 4 m/s. and 6 do.		Docty. 4 m/s.		Rupees. T/Trauc-sers.
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.			
Saturday, 5th	4.23	4.24	4.38	4.38	4.37	4.37	4.4	4.4	5.49/5.52	5.49/5.52	94½	27½	308
Monday, 7th	4.21	4.22	4.38	4.38	4.38	4.38	4.4	4.4	5.49/5.52	5.49/5.52	94½	27½	308
Tuesday, 8th	4.23	4.23	4.38	4.38	4.38	4.38	4.4	4.4	5.49/5.52	5.49/5.52	94½	27½	307
Wednesday, 9th	4.22	4.22	4.38	4.38	4.38	4.38	4.4	4.4	5.49/5.52	5.49/5.52	94½	27½	306½
Thursday, 10th	4.28	4.28	4.38	4.38	4.38	4.38	4.38	4.38	5.48/5.51	5.48/5.51	94½	27½	306½
Friday, 11th	4.28	4.28	4.38	4.38	4.38	4.38	4.38	4.38	5.47/5.50	5.47/5.50	94½	27½	306½

AUCTION SALES.

Auctions for the week ending 10th January comprised the following Goods:—

	For the week.		Previous week.		Corresponding period last year.			For the week.		Previous week.		Corresponding period last year.	
	pcs.	against	pcs.	against	pcs.	against		pcs.	against	pcs.	against	pcs.	against
Grey Shirtings.....	21,890		9,230		13,460		Velvets.....					90	
White Shirtings.....	13,520		8,110		100		Velveteens.....						
T.Cloths.....	2,490		1,160		1,260		Cotton Yarn.....						bis.
Drills, English.....	780		360				Camlets.....	950		870		750	pos.
Jeans.....	750		240				Long Ells.....	340		580		200	
Sheetings, English.....	980		540		600		Lastings.....	340		520		460	
Turkey Reds.....	250		1,148				Spanish Stripes.....	696		528		708	

PIECE GOODS.

At Nie-kee, 5th inst.—

Cotton Long Ells.—20 pieces; *Two Dragon, Scarlet*, £2.95.
Cotton Spanish Stripes.—24 pieces; *Two Dragon, Scarlet*, £0.21.6.
Handkerchiefs.—600 dozen; *Assorted* £0.33/33.2 per doz.

At E-wo, 9th inst.—

Turkey Reds.—990 pieces; *Mandarin* 3.14-lbs. £1.38/38½.

At Yuen-fong, this forenoon—

Grey Shirtings.—6-lbs.—2,300 pieces; *Lotus* £0.91½, *Two Man* £0.93/93½, and *Blue 3-Students* £0.95.
7-lbs.—3,375 pieces; *Blue Loyal Son* £1.26½, *Blue Britannia* £1.28½/28½, *Blue 4-Sister* £1.35, and *Blue 3-Students* £1.43½.
8.4-lbs.—10,815 pieces; *Two Man* £1.38, *House* £1.43, *Blue Loyal Son* £1.43½, *Blue Britannia* £1.43½/44½, *Blue 4-Sister* £1.53½, *Blue 3-Students* £1.57½, *Blue Double Shield* £1.62½, *Red 3-Students* £1.72, *Five Brother* £1.73½/74½, and *Painted 3-Students* £1.72½.
10-lbs.—2,550 pieces *Blue Britannia* £1.81/81½, *Red do.* £2.01, *Red 3-Students* £2.04½/05, and *Red 4-Sister* £2.20½/21.
10 12-lbs.—1,160 pieces; *Painted Loyal Son* £2.24/24½, and *Gold Britannia* £2.26/26½.
11-lbs.—1,100 pieces; *Painted 3-Students* £2.38.
12-lbs.—600 pieces; *Squirrel C.* £2.29½, and *Soldier* £2.38½, and *Nine-Lions* £2.41½/42½.
White Shirtings.—64 reed, 6,800 pieces; *House bright* £1.59/60½, and *dull* £1.59/59½, *Blue Double Lighthouse bright* £1.62, and *dull* £1.60½, and *Black and Gold 3-Students* £1.79½/79½.
72-reed.—6,720 pieces; *White and Gold 3-Students* £1.94½/94½, *Red Two-Sister* £1.96½, *Red Double Lighthouse bright* £1.97/97½, *dull* £1.94/94½, and *Red and Gold Star bright* £2.15/15½, *dull* £2.10/11, and *Green and Gold 3-Students (Irishes)* £2.46½.
T.Cloths.—7-lbs.—1,140 pieces; *Blue 3-Students* £1.09/09½, *Blue Lion* £1.20, and *Red Double Shield* £1.21.
8-lbs.—1,310 pieces; *Blue Lion* £1.96½/37, *Eagle XX* £1.48½, and *Painted 3-Students* £1.68½.
Drills.—English, 14 lbs.—510 pieces; *Black Flag Chief* £1.64½, *Britannia* £2.45½/45½, and *Old Man Head* £2.63/63½.
15 lbs.—270 pieces; *Running Deer* £2.11/11½.
Jeans.—English, 8-lbs.—750 pieces; *Lion and Cloud* £1.70½, and *Two Squirrel* £1.84½/84½.
Sheetings.—English, 14-lbs.—980 pieces; *Lion and Cloud* £2.24/24½, *Nine Lion* £2.34½, and *Old Man Head* £2.54½/55.

WOOLLENS.

Auctions—	Scarlet.	Dk. Blue.	Gentian.	Green, and N. Green.	Orange and Yellow.	Ash & Lav.	White	Purple	Black.	*Brown & Mag.	Mauve.	Lt. Gt. Mid. "	Sales Pcs.
	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	
Nie-kee, 5th inst.													
S. S'pes, S'gle Phoenix	0.43/43.8	0.42.55/42.9	0.42.45	0.41.9	0.42.95	0.41.9	0.41.1	...	0.43.6	...	...	0.44/43.7	
Sales, pos.	126	12	24	6	6	6	6	...	12	...	...	72	270
E'pbaud p. yd	0.30.1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.34.1/35	
Sales, pos.	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	18
E-wo, 9th inst.													
Camlets, Mau Horse, pp	9.56	.....	9.32	.....	9.20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pos.	60	.....	30	.....	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Boar, p. po.	9.24/27	.....	9.06	.....	8.80	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pos.	30	.....	10	.....	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Long Ells, H.D.B.p.p.	4.93	.....	4.88	4.99	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pos.	200	.....	20	20	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	240
S. S'pes, S'gle Phoenix	0.40.8	0.41	0.42.2/42½	.....	.....	...	...	...	0.41.4	...	...	...	
Sales, pos.	96	24	96	.....	.....	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	228
YUEN-FONG, 10th inst.													
Camlets, S.S.G. p.pce.	10.57½/70	10.32½/55	10.40/45	11.12½	11.00	...	...	...	...	...	9.57½	10.27½	
Sales, pos.	180	90	80	20	10	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	400
G.G.M., p.pce.	10.95	10.60/62½	10.45	11.15	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.40	
Sales, pos.	40	20	20	10	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	100
S.S.H., p.pce.	10.17½/20	9.40	10.00	10.35	10.15	...	...	...	...	...	9.37½	9.92½/95	
Sales, pos.	120	60	60	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	20	20	300
Long Ells, G.G.L., p.p.	5.35/36	.....	.....	.....	4.96	...	5.03	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pos.	60	.....	.....	.....	20	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	100
Lastings, G.G.R., p.pce.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...	8.80/82½	...	...	...	9.15	
Sales, pos. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...	160	...	...	...	20	180
F.F.R., p.pce.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...	6.97½/7.00	...	...	...	7.27½/30	
Sales, pos. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...	120	...	...	...	40	160
S. S'pes, T.T.B. p. yd.	0.46½/47	0.47½/47½	0.43½/43½	.....	.....	...	0.35½	0.48	0.45	0.50	...	...	
Sales, pos.	96	12	48	.....	.....	...	6	6	6	6	...	...	180

QUOTATIONS—DUTY PAID.				DUTY.		QUOTATIONS—DUTY PAID.				DUTY.	
				T's. m. c.						T's. m. c.	
G. E. GRAY SHIRTINGS—				T. m. c. T. m. c.							
6-lbs 39-in 38½ yds.....	nom	pc.	0.87½ to 1.02			PRINTED TWILLS—24/25 yds	pc.	1.15 to 1.60			0.07 per 30 yd.
7-lbs	"	"	1.05 " 1.45			50/52 ..	"	2.50 " 3.15			
8½ to 8½-lbs.....	"	"	1.20 " 1.92			Special ...	"	3.50 " 3.80			
D. Eagle and XX	"	"	1.88 " 1.92			TURKEY REDS—					
9 to 9½-lbs	nom	"	1.65 " 1.90			24-yd 1½ to 3-lbs. 32-in, nom	pc.	0.60 " 1.35			0.15 per pce.
9½ to 10-lbs	"	"	1.70 " 2.40			Best	"	1.45 " 2.50			
Dewhurst's, Best	"	"	2.20 "			VELVETS—Black, 22-in.....					
11 to 12-lbs English 36 in..	"	"	2.10 " 2.65			nom	pc.	0.10½ " 0.15			0.18 per pce.
12-lbs American 32/66 in..	"	"	2.20 " 2.60	0.08 per pce.		26-in ..	"	0.10 " 0.15			
						41-in ..	"	0.15 " 0.19			0.15 "
G. E. WHITE SHIRTINGS—						BLUE DENIMS	nom	0.03 " 0.04	5 per cent. ad. val.		
40-yds 36-in 56-rd.....	pc.	"	1.25 " 1.35			DIMITIES—12-yd 37-in	pc.	0.90 " 1.20			0.06½ per pce.
60-read	"	"	1.30 " 1.45			41-in ..	"	1.00 " 1.61			
64 "	"	"	1.35 " 1.80			MUSLINS—12-yd 42-in	"	0.45 " 0.60			0.03½ "
64 " Best and 66-read ..	"	"	1.80 " 1.95			YARN—COTTON—Nos. 28/32 ..	"	75.00 " 80.00			
72 to 80-read	"	"	1.80 " 2.40			16/24, nom ..	"	51.00 " 62.50			0.70 per pol.
Best	"	"	2.10 " 3.60			CAMELIS—English, SS Scarlet	pc.	8.50 " 10.00			
DRILLS, Am. 40-yd 30-in 14-lbs	pc.	"	2.50 " 2.90			GG ..	"	10.90 " 11.00			0.05
English, " 14 to 15-lbs ...	"	"	1.40 " 2.00	0.10 "		SSG ..	"	10.55 " 10.70			
" Good to Finest	"	"	1.90 " 2.85			HDB nom. ..	"	" " "			0.12
Dutch, 14 to 14½-lbs.....	nom	"	2.00 " 2.40			CPH ..	"	10.20 " "			
JRANS, Dh., 30-yd. 30-in 8½-lbs	pc.	"	1.50 " 1.80			Dutch, 33 to 2 4-in nom. ..	"	15.00 " 18.00			0.04½
English, " 8 to 8½-lbs ..	"	"	1.30 " 1.90	0.07½ "		Do. 37-in.....	"	17.25 " 23.00			
American " Beaver, nom. "	"	"	1.90 "			MEDIUM & BROAD CLOTHS ...	pc.	0.45 " 1.40			0.05
SHEETINGS—						SPANISH STRIPES, Assorted...	"	0.30 " 0.55			
Am., 40yd. 36/38in. 14lb. nom.	pc.	"	2.25 " 2.90	0.08 "		" HH ..	"	0.51 " "			0.12
Eng., " 14 to 16lb. "	"	"	1.50 " 2.85			" HDB Sc'let. "	"	" " "			
T-CLOTHS—						" TTB ..	"	0.47 " "			0.04
6-lbs 24-yd 32-in Ord., nom	pc.	"	0.75 " 1.10			" BTI ..	"	0.43 " "			
7-lbs " " " " " "	"	"	0.85 " 1.20			" CPH, nom. "	"	0.42½ " "			0.05
6-lbs Mexican.....	"	"	" " 1.00	0.04 "		LONG ELIS—					
7-lbs " " " " " "	"	"	1.00 " 1.35			Scarlet, 24-yd GG.....	pc.	5.30 " 5.35			0.04½
7-lbs Mexican Special chops	"	"	1.25 " 1.75			" " HH ..	"	5.40 " "			
8 to 8½-lbs	"	"	1.35 " 1.95			" " CPH nom. "	"	4.95 " 5.00			0.05
Better kinds and XX nom. "	"	"	1.65 " 2.00	0.08 "		" " UU ..	"	5.15 " "			
HANDKERCHIEFS—						" " HDB.....	"	4.90 " 4.95			0.04½
Blue, 28 to 32-in	doz.	"	0.32½ to 0.57	0.02½ per doz.		" " V ..	"	5.07½ " 5.10			
Brown	nom	"	0.36 " 0.40			" " Dove, nom. "	"	5.07½ " "			0.05
SPOTTED SHIRTINGS—White.	pc.	"	1.80 " 2.00	0.10 per pce.		" " Sundries ..	"	3.50 " 5.40			
Dyed, nom ..	"	"	2.00 " 2.45			Assorted, HH ..	"	nom. " "			0.05
BROCADES—White, 40-yd ..	"	"	1.85 " 2.00	0.10 "		" CPH ..	"	" " "			
Dyed ..	"	"	2.20 " 2.45	0.15 "		" GG.....	"	" " "			0.20 per pol.
DAMASKS—Dyed, 40-yd, nom	"	"	2.25 " 3.50	0.20 "		" UU ..	"	" " "			
GENTIAN SHIRTINGS	nom	"	1.85 " 2.20	0.15 "		LASTINGS, 30-yd	pc.	5.00 " 9.30			0.05
CRINTZ—Assorted 28in. 28yds.	pc.	"	0.80 " 1.40			GRAPE LASTINGS, 30-yd nom	"	2.75 " 6.50			
Blue	"	"	0.95 " 1.15			GRAPE LUSTRES	"	" " "			0.20 per pol.
Brown	nom	"	0.95 " 1.12	0.07 per pce.		PLAIN LUSTRES, Black.....	"	2.75 " 3.40			
Scarlet	"	"	1.00 " 1.25			ORLEANS—Figured, 30-yd ..	"	2.10 " 2.75			
						Special Colors & Patterns ..	"	2.50 " 3.30			

Per Chang of 141 inches.

Per Chang of 141 inches.

METALS.		QUOTATIONS.		SUNDRIES.		QUOTATIONS.	
		T. m. c.	T. m. c.			T. m. c.	T. m. c.
JAPAN COPPER—Ore and Tiles.....		19.00 @ 22.00		SUGAR—			
TIN PLATES—Parson's and I. C. Coke. per box		4.00	4.10	White, Canton, No. 1	per picul	5.00	5.20
Decorated		5.50	7.00	" " " 2	"	4.80	4.90
STEEL, Bamboo.....	per picul	3.40	3.50	" " " 3	"	4.30	4.50
TIN, Fok Chok	"	28.50	28.70	White, Swatow, No. 1	"	5.10	5.30
Sowkong	"	28.20	"	" " " 2	"	4.80	5.00
SPELTER, W. H. Remelted	"	4.75	5.00	" " " 3	"	4.40	4.70
Hard	"	4.00	4.50	Brown, Canton, Best.....	"	3.40	3.50
FIG IRON, Gartsherrie No. 1		22.00	23.50	" " Common.....	"	2.90	3.10
" No. 3	"	20.00	21.00	" Swatow, Best.....	"	3.40	3.50
Common brands	"	18.00	19.00	" " Common.....	"	3.00	3.20
IRON WIRE, Nos. 11 & 21		3.80	3.90	PEPPER—Black	"	17.50	18.00
" " 14 & 25	"	3.85	3.95	White	"	26.50	27.50
" " 18 & 25	"	4.05	4.10	RATTANS—Common	"	3.30	3.70
IRON—Nail Rod—				Best	"	4.00	4.50
Dawes' Best	"	2.30	2.35	SAFAN WOOD.....	per picul	2.50	3.30
Staffordshire	"	2.20	2.25	SANDALWOOD, South Sea	"	4.80	5.30
Scotch	"	2.25	2.30	Timor	"	7.00	8.00
Belgian	"	2.07½	2.10	Malabar	"	17.50	18.50
" Sohiers	"	2.15	2.17	WINDOW GLASS—			
English—Bar	"	2.10	2.20	Good assortments	per box	2.40	2.50
Belgian	"	2.00	2.10	MATCHES—			
Swedish	"	2.70	2.90	Swedish Safety, Red and Black Dip. per case		10.00	16.00
LEAD—				Phosphor	"	12.00	13.50
I. B and Enthoven.....	"	4.85	4.90	Paraffine	"	13.00	15.00
Other brands	"	4.85	4.90	Japanese and Shanghai.....	"	8.00	10.50
ZINC SHEETING, No. 4 to 12		7.00	7.25	Vienna Brilliant	p. 25 gross	17.00	19.00
WHITE METAL, (German Silver)	"	40.00	47.00	KEROSENE—Devoe's	per case	1.60	"
NICKEL—Cube	"	60.00	82.00	FLINT STONES	per picul	0.58	0.68
				COTTON—Shanghai, best.....	"	9.30	"
				Compoek	"	9.50	"
				RICE—Shanghai	p. 180 cat.	2.70	3.30
				Chinkiang	"	2.10	2.30
				HIDES—Cow	per picul	11.00	"

Statement of Imports and Deliveries of Cotton and Woollen Piece Goods for the week ending 9th January 1889, compiled from the "Customs Daily Returns," Nos. 2 to 7, both numbers inclusive.

Goods.	RE-EXPORTS AND THEIR DESTINATIONS.												
	Singap.	Swatow.	Chinkiang.	Fuhu.	Kiutiang.	Hankow.	Chefoo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Poochow.	Hongkong.	Nagasaki.	Hioogo.
Grey Shirtings †.....Pcs	2,740	635	19,280	1,315	3,170	41,445	5,930	...	...	220	...	...	...
T-Cloths, 32-in.	735	385	1,355	135	620	850	5,300	...	...	1,335	...	...	1470
" 36-in.	390	...	50	120	301	340	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
White Shirtings	400	250	2,930	1,100	130	15,016	500	...	...	50	...	...	...
Drills, English & Dutch	15	75	840	...	...	75	635	...	...	...	...	...	...
" American	90	...	90	...	...	360	150	...	...	...	...	...	...
Jeans, English & Dutch	150	...	70	...	...	300	...	...	...	...	...	...	180
" American	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sheetings, English	...	...	1,380	460	...	1,210	1,930	...	...	...	...	...	...
" American	100	...	60	...	...	50	1,050	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dyed Shirtings	...	...	440	...	...	392	100	...	...	...	...	...	42
Brocades & Sp. Stings, White	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Dyed	...	...	...	...	50	40	100	...	...	...	...	...	...
Damasks, Dyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chintzes	80	...	208	...	60	628	60	...	...	...	...	...	...
Printed T-Cloths	...	...	180	...	...	817	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Printed Twills	...	...	164	...	...	600	80	...	...	...	...	...	...
Turkey Red Shirtings	100	51	600	50	100	1,120	1,747	...	...	70	...	...	360
Velvets	...	30	...	...	10	130	120	...	...	...	...	...	...
Velveteens	...	...	...	...	...	130	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Handkerchiefs Doz.	...	...	400	600	...	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Muslins Pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Dimities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cotton Yarn, Bombay Pcls.	...	...	9	...	411	30	1,125	...	...	...	...	...	...
" English	...	...	6	3	240	276	42	...	...	3	...	...	...
Spanish Stripes Pcs.	48	30	132	36	12	324	24	...	...	...	...	...	...
Medium and Broad Cloths ..	6	...	20	...	...	211	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Camlets	10	170	190	60	120	810	20	...	140	30	...	...	30
Long Ellis	...	40	80	180	40	900	60	...	...	20	...	...	...
Lastings	...	40	110	...	40	1,140	180	...	...	40	...	...	161
" Crape	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lastings, Cotton & Italians ..	260	30	1,663	...	60	2,350	1,820	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lustras, Plain	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Figured Orleans	...	120	120	...	...	200	40	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lustras, Crape	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lead in Pigs Pcls.	63	...	265	25	2,769	597	...	...	63	...	...	...	...
Iron—Nail Rod	798	...	...	25	17	422	344	...	...	...	...	...	...

Goods.	TOTAL DELIVERIES.			TOTAL IMPORTS.			STOCKS AT DATE ARE BASED ON THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RETURNS OF 1st JULY, 1888.	
	As above.	For the Year from 1st Jan., 1888.	Against last year to same term.	For the week.	For the year from 1st Jan., 1888.	Against last year to same term.	*At date Estimated.	Against 9th Jan., 1888.
Grey Shirtings †.....Pcs	76,325	5,759,030	5,933,905	98,685	5,787,267	5,192,207	858,538	572,164
T-Cloths, 32-in.	10,915	1,287,172	1,380,613	9,180	1,621,701	1,403,591	532,424	275,253
" 36-in.	1,201	252,005	142,416	2,950	456,625	346,294	213,524	167,372
White Shirtings	20,726	1,706,134	1,642,892	36,751	2,343,129	1,640,106	626,104	252,110
Drills, English and Dutch	1,640	422,083	415,990	15,080	625,063	365,041	274,007	58,907
" American	690	455,129	477,873	...	483,625	456,525	11,941	5,074
Jeans, English and Dutch	700	146,964	188,650	...	127,883	425,747	27,527	81,550
" American	40	26,645	35,050	...	9,000	40,600	2,560	16,850
Sheetings, English	4,980	686,267	418,553	7,000	1,011,465	661,724	496,793	235,992
" Am.	1,200	940,363	1,297,886	...	1,572,605	1,318,911	753,213	170,120
Dyed Shirtings	974	139,842	124,005	1,355	186,772	125,692	44,171	14,616
Bro. & Spot. Shirts, White	...	2,080	2,177	...	3,714	996	3,732	109
" Dyed	190	34,046	60,830	680	49,628	36,423	11,839	3,703
Damasks, Dyed	...	1,343	1,433	4	1,567	484	...	...
Chintzes	1,036	238,912	257,141	...	356,162	363,035	47,586	136,205
Printed T-Cloths	997	145,362	168,743	1,792	157,650	285,346	262,501	188,177
Printed Twills	844	97,660	96,627	...	173,002	59,103	107,808	33,052
Turkey Red Shirtings	4,248	379,999	384,055	6,020	481,373	294,283	168,667	77,528
Velvets	290	36,565	41,501	128	36,295	36,715	17,403	17,628
Velveteens	134	14,761	13,769	...	15,388	20,227	6,066	8,867
Handkerchiefs Doz.	1,200	288,908	231,132	2,200	515,217	520,564	304,237	320,440
Muslins Pcs.	100	224,352	202,429	...	407,695	137,405	172,523	42,332
Dimities	...	780	2,200	...	1,288	640	2,603	3,314
Cotton Yarn, Bombay Pcls.	1,575	153,197	199,929	1,224	163,042	205,422	13,829	10,166
" English	570	47,457	...	...	62,144	...	16,663	...
Spanish Stripes Pcs.	606	43,330	44,812	605	53,388	39,509	22,249	18,134
Medium and Broad Cloths ..	237	26,402	25,843	532	30,133	33,122	26,683	24,929
Camlets	1,580	97,372	131,098	2,500	82,009	137,937	18,693	32,015
Long Ellis	1,320	80,560	85,829	200	82,987	85,820	16,013	9,343
Lastings	1,711	124,527	135,796	1,210	135,789	132,919	64,410	41,174
" Crape	...	2,098	1,908	...	1,738	1,640	390	750
Cotton Lastings & Italians ..	6,183	587,482	535,734	674	1,001,682	669,788	492,348	200,696
Lustras, Plain	40	3,129	3,820	...	4,976	7,901	188	...
Figured Orleans	480	35,646	49,749	280	32,014	53,017	23,159	38,551
Lustras, Crape	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1,920
Lead in Pigs Pcls.	3,782	92,747	107,991	...	132,506	118,883	49,434	17,157
Iron—Nail Rod	1,606	176,407	188,025	...	311,229	202,887	181,738	91,318

† Including English and Dutch 12-lbs.

* Exclusive of undeclared Import Cargoes per *Sutlej*, *Bayern*, *Glennearn*, *Telenachus*, *Diomed*, *Glenavon* and *Melbourne*. Import Cargoes declared this week *Chingoo*, *Ozus*, and additional ex *Ajax* and *Clyde*.

COMMERCIAL POSTSCRIPT.

11TH JANUARY, 1889.

EXCHANGE.—On London—Telegraphic Transfers, 4s. 2½d. Bank Bills, demand, 4s. 2½d. Bank Bills, 4 months' sight, 4s. 3½d. First-Class Credits to Banks, 4 months' sight, 4s. 3½d.; 6 months' sight, 4s. 3½d. Private and Documentary, 4 months' sight, 4s. 3½d.; 6 months' sight, 4s. 4d. On France—Bank Bills, demand, Fcs. 5.35; Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, 5.47; 6 months' sight, 5.50. On New York—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, 94½. On Hongkong—Telegraphic Transfers, 27½; Private Bills, 3 days' sight, 27½. On Bombay—Telegraphic Transfers, Rs. 306½; Calcutta, Rs. 306½. Bullion—Gold Bars, Pekin, 98 touch, £226.50. Silver Bars, £111.20. Mexican dollars, £73.00. Copper Cash, 1,400. Native Interest, mace 1.

SHARES.

BANKS.—Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares have been in strong demand, and cash sales have been made at 157, 158, 161, 162 and 163 per cent. premium. On time, shares have been sold at 167, 171 and 172 per cent. premium for delivery on 31st March, and at 166, 168 and 170 per cent. premium for delivery on 30th April. Cash shares are in demand at 163 per cent. premium. New Oriental Bank Corporation, Ltd.—Shares have been placed at £10.15.0 and exchange 4/3.

SHIPPING.—The Shanghai Tug Boat Co. to-day paid a dividend of 2 per cent. for the quarter ending 31st December last. We quote £86 as the closing cash rate. Indo-China S.N. shares have been placed at £33. Taku Tug and Lighter shares have changed hands at £145.

DOCKS.—Footings have been placed at £80.

GAS.—The Shanghai Gas Co. paid a dividend of 6 per cent. on the 10th instant, for the half-year to 31st December last.

MARINE INSURANCE.—The Yangtze Insurance Association has declared a dividend of 3½ per cent. for 1888, payable on the 18th current. Shares are offering at £100 cum dividend. The Canton Insurance Office paid a dividend of 10 per cent. on the 8th instant for 1888. We quote \$93 ex dividend as the closing rate.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Hongkongs are wanted at \$337½, but there are no sellers at that rate. Chinas have been sold at \$78½ and \$78 cash, \$79 for 31st January, and \$79½ to \$80 for 31st March. There are cash buyers at \$78½. Singapore Insurance shares have changed hands at \$16½.

WHARFS.—Footings have been sold at £83, shares are obtainable at £83 cash or £85 for 31st March.

MINING.—Sheridans have been placed at £157½ and £160.

CARGO BOATS.—Shanghai shares have been sold at £170.

Perak Sugar Cultivation Co.—A sale has been booked at £15. They are wanted at that rate.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVIDEND, &c		CASH QUOTATIONS.
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders.	When pd. or due.	
Banks.									
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Co.	60,000	\$125	\$125	\$4,000,000	\$10,441.36	30 June 88	* £1½	27 Aug. 88	163½ prem.
New Oriental Bank Corp., Ltd.	54,700	£10	£10	£115,002.72	.....	31 Mar. 87	* 3 %	16 July 88	£10½
Shipping.									
Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	£100	£100	.....	\$2,493.96	31 Dec. 87	13 %	11 Jan. 89	£86
Indo-China Steam Nav. Co.	49,589	£10	£10	£30,000.00	\$1,922.89	31 Dec. 87	+ 5 %	23 July 88	£33
Shanghai Shipping Co.	150	£1,000	£1,000	.....	\$22,968.60	30 June 88	* 6 %	10 July 88	£300 nominal.
China Shippers' Mutual S.N. Co.	7,662	£20	£13	\$33,425.91	\$2,526.10	31 Dec. 87	+ 6 %	4 June 87	£10
Taku Tug and Lighter Co.	2,500	£100	£100	\$20,000.00	\$32,881.94	31 Dec. 87	+ 5 %	6 July 88	£140
Docks.									
Shanghai Dock Co.	440	£600	£600	£17,700	\$341.38	30 June 88	* 12 %	9 July 88	£340
Footung Dock Co.	950	£100	£100	£2,900	\$33.28	31 Dec. 87	* 5 %	14 Jan. 88	£80
Gas.									
Shanghai Gas Co.	2,000	£100	£100	£67,000	\$1,281.47	31 Dec. 87	* 6 %	10 Jan. 89	£197½
Compagnie du Gaz	500	£100	£100	£18,812.91	\$170.03	31 Dec. 87	* 5½ %	7 July 88	160
Insurance (Marine.)									
China Traders' Insurance Co., Limited.	24,000	\$83.33	\$25	\$650,000.00	\$261,119.28	30 Apr. 88	20 %	4 Sept. 88	\$73
North-China Ins. Co., Ltd.	4,269	\$200	\$50	\$264,578.42	\$502,640.14	30 June 88	+ \$25.46	26 Apr. 88	\$290
Union Ins. Society of Canton Ltd.	10,000	\$250	\$25	\$696,500.00	\$484,923.17	30 June 88	+ 20 %	17 Oct. 88	\$82½
Yangtze Insurance Ass'n Ltd.	8,000	\$25	\$25	\$176,914.31	.....	31 Mar. 88	* 3½ %	23 Jan. 88	\$100
Chinese Insurance Co., Limited	1,500	\$1,000	\$200	\$28,711.50	\$15,285.84	31 Dec. 87	* 3 %	2 Apr. 88	\$160
Canton Insurance Office	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$304,000.00	\$487,321.48	30 Sep. 88	+ 10 %	8 Jan. 89	\$93
Straits Insurance Co., Limited.	30,000	\$100	\$20	\$85,000.00	\$123,091.56	30 June 88	* 5 %	16 Jan. 88	\$25
Insurance (Fire.)									
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co., Limited	8,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,031,486	\$252,243.30	31 Dec. 87	+ 59.60 %	2 Mar. 88	\$340
China Fire Ins. Co., Limited	20,000	\$100	\$20	\$650,000	\$144,003.90	31 Dec. 87	+ 30 %	3 Mar. 87	\$78½
Straits Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$20	.....	\$89,763.92	30 June 88	+ 5 %	11 Feb. 88	\$16
Singapore Insurance Co., Ltd.	29,176	\$100	\$20	\$11,875.91	\$76,898.10	31 Dec. 87	+ 10 %	5 Apr. 88	\$16½
Wharfs.									
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co.	2,867	£100	£100	\$87,589.75	\$711.27	31 Dec. 87	* 5 %	21 Aug. 88	£200
Hirt's Wharf Hide-Curing and Wool-Cleaning Company	2,100	£50	£50	\$3,449.46	\$384.31	31 Oct. 87	* 3½ %	30 Nov. 88	£26
Footung Wharf & Godown Co.	2,300	£100	£100	£12,000	\$2,291.65	31 Dec. 87	* 5 %	9 Feb. 88	£83
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited	17,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$1,224.97	31 Dec. 87	+ 4 %	8 Mar. 88	\$174
Mining.									
Perak Tin Mining & Smelting Co.	5,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$53,543.63	31 Dec. 87	None.	.....	\$10
Sheridan Mining Co.	2,800	\$100	\$100	.....	\$15,979.95	31 Dec. 87	11 %	10 Dec. 88	\$160
Cargo Boats.									
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.	1,000	£200	£200	\$10,300.65	\$534.39	31 Dec. 87	* 2 %	6 Aug. 88	£170
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.	1,000	£100	£100	.....	\$679.97	31 Dec. 87	+ 3 %	22 Feb. 88	£55
Miscellaneous.									
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	6,000	£20	£20	\$5,000.00	\$1,304.91	31 Dec. 87	+ 5 %	16 Apr. 88	£29
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd., New Shares	1,200	£20	£10	.....	.....	.....	+ 5 %	16 Apr. 88	£18
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.	5,000	£50	£50	.....	\$604.50	31 Dec. 87	None.	.....	£15
Hall & Holtz Co-operative Co., Ltd.	6,000	£50	£50	.....	.....	28 Feb. 88	£2½	1 May 88	£27
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd.	667	\$100	\$100	.....	\$2,653.56	31 Dec. 87	.....	.....	\$122
New Shanghai Electric Co., Ltd.	300	£100	£100	.....	.....	.....	First year.	.....	£100
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Limited	20,000	£50	£10	.....	.....	.....	do.	.....	£10
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ltd.	1,200	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	do.	.....	\$120

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Outstanding.	Nominal Value.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1882	£ 60,000.00	£ 20,000.00	£ 100	7 %	Dec. & June.	£101 (a)
Do. 1883	£ 45,000.00	£ 45,000.00	£ 100	7 %	Do.	£105 nom.
Do. 1885	£ 30,000.00	£ 30,000.00	£ 100	7 %	Do.	£105 "
Do. 1888	£ 70,000.00	£ 70,000.00	£ 100	6 %	Do.	£103 "
China Merchants' S.N. Co. Debentures	£ 300,000	£ 300,000	£ 100	7 %	Quarterly	£106 (a)
Chinese Imp. Government Loan 1884	\$1,394,700.14	\$ 976,290.10	\$ 500	8 %	30th June.	\$515 (a)
Do. do. 1884	\$1,594,700.14	\$1,316,760.11	\$ 500	8 %	15th Oct.	\$510 (a)
Do. do. 1886	\$ 767,200.00	\$751,200.00	£ 250.	7 %	Mar. & Sept.	£287½ (a)

* For half-year. † For quarter year. ‡ For year. § A deficit. || Reserve for equalization of dividends. (a) Exclusive of accrued interest.